

# THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

## China Overland Trade Report.

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### MARRIAGE.

On the 23th August, at H.B.M.'s Consulate, Tientsin, HERBERT DIXON SUMMERS, of the Imperial Maritime Customs Service, to JENNIE ELIZABETH, only daughter of W. H. WARMSLEY, Esq., of Tientsin.

### DEATHS.

On the 30th August, at No. 217-B, Bluff, CARL, son of LEOPOLD ARENHEIM, aged 24 years.  
At Ikao, on the 2nd September, C. G. BUCHANAN DUNLOP, of Messrs. Findlay, Richardson & Co.  
At Pei-Tai-Ho, on the 3rd September, 1897, REBECCA, widow of the late WILLIAM THOMAS WAY, of Taku.  
At Rokkusan on the 5th September, HENRY ST. JOHN BROWNE.  
At Unzen, September 7th, 1897, JOHN A. KERR, of the Imperial Maritime Customs, Shanghai, aged 38 years.

### ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 14th August arrived, per P. M. steamer *Belgie*, on the 9th September (26 days); the French mail of the 11th August arrived, per M. M. steamer *Sydney*, on the 11th September (31 days); and the Canadian mail of the 23rd August arrived, per C. P. steamer *Empress of Japan*, on the 13th September (21 days).

### EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Provisional Regulations of Trade on the West River have been published.

A census of the Philippine Islands is to be taken at the end of the present year.

Mr. Anderson, the Canadian Commercial Commissioner, arrived at Kobe on the 1st inst. After visiting the factories in that district he was to proceed to Nagasaki.

Owing to the depreciation of the dollar and the enhanced cost of living the subordinate employes of the different branches of the Singapore Municipality have sent in a memorial praying for an increase to their salaries.

It is reported that the Japanese Government has decided to apply the gold standard to the currency in Formosa on and after the 1st October, which is the date the change takes effect in Japan proper.

The *Straits Times* says:—It is understood that the passenger lines will shortly raise the dollar rate of the passages homeward, so as to bring these more into conformity with the sterling rates. The rise may be made at any moment, telegraphic instructions being expected.

The Shanghai Municipal Council has decided that, so soon as may be possible, a new and duly qualified Health Officer be engaged in England; that the said Health Officer shall be engaged through the Council's agents, under the usual agreement, as a Municipal employe; and that he shall receive his authority, salary, and instructions from the Council direct, as a public servant.

The cotton spinning mills at Hanyang having been handed over to government control, all the female hands hitherto engaged there were immediately dismissed and male hands substituted in their places. The Chinese government act on the principle that woman's sphere is in her home, and hence never engage females in the public service, but with one solitary exception—the female wardens who look after female prisoners.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A Swatow despatch reports the arrival at that city recently of 1,000 Hunan braves from Canton en route for the prefectural city of Chaochoufu. They were being sent to assist the local authorities in protecting some foreign missionaries who had met with some trouble from a mob of 5,000 natives, who objected to the erection of a chapel. So turbulent and bloodthirsty did the mob prove that help had to be telegraphed for to Canton, with the result of the prompt despatch of the troops as above—a course which has so far prevented any acts of violence.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Mr. Frossell, the agent of the Jameson-Hooley Syndicate, has returned to Shanghai from Peking. Very satisfactory arrangements, the *N. C. Daily News* says, have been made with the Tsungli Yamen as regards the settlement of the loan for sixteen million pounds sterling, and Mr. Frossell has now to complete some necessary details about the railway, before a final settlement is effected. A telegram from London announces that the money is all ready to be placed at the disposal of the Chinese Minister, immediately the contract is definitely ratified by the Tsungli Yamen.

Although British North Borneo lies outside the typhoon zone, the *Herald* of that Colony suggests that weather telegrams might be exchanged between Labuan and Singapore and Hongkong. Our contemporary says:—With the cable and land line in working order, such news might be flashed from Hongkong to Sandakan within half an hour. Granted even that, on very many occasions, such telegrams would have but little local significance, the possibility of giving a useful warning to a single steamer once in three months would amply make up for the cases in which the telegrams were useless. Nor need they be sent daily. No news, either by wire or steamer, would be good news.

Owing to representations made by the Consular Body at Tientsin to the City Magistrate with reference to the recent prohibition of the slaughter of cattle, the foreign community at that port is once again in enjoyment of its usual beef supply.

We understand that Mr. S. Shimizu has handed over charge of the Japanese Consulate to Mr. S. Takagi. It is the intention of the Government, owing to the increase of the trade of Japan with the Pacific Coast, to increase the number of Consulates in that part of the world, and Mr. Shimizu, who has been very popular during his stay in Hongkong, will probably be appointed to one of them.

The Foochow Tea Improvement Co. invited tenders for a further small invoice of machine made teas from their factory, and sold them at quite as satisfactory prices as before. They also sold a small lot from their own garden: and these teas show a most distinct improvement, on those made from bought leaf. The desirableness of manuring and cultivation is fully evident. The teas being heavier in the hand, better colour, more sappy, and with a less proportion of dust. We understand that the Company have some 70,000 thriving young tea plants, which they have raised from Darjeeling and other Indian seeds, shortly to be planted out; the result of which will be watched with much interest.—*Echo*.

At Saigon on the 30th August a murder was committed, the murderer afterwards committing suicide. The victim was M. Blanc, the proprietor of the Hotel du Grand Balcon, and the murderer a man named Michel, from whom M. Blanc had some time ago purchased the hotel. It appears that Michel, after selling the hotel, went to France, and returned recently to Saigon. His means becoming exhausted he applied to M. Blanc, and, it is said, demanded the restoration of the hotel, but nothing appears to be definitely known as to what passed between the two. Having purchased a revolver on the 29th, early on the morning of the 30th Michel made his way into the Hotel du Grand Balcon, where he found M. Blanc, sleeping on three chairs. He shot him in the right temple, and then, running back to the Grand Hotel where he was staying, he shot himself.

In a letter to the *Japan Times* Mr. F. J. Lowder gives the following interesting incident in the life of Count Mutsu, as showing his earnestness of character:—"In the very early sixties, when he was in his nineteenth or twentieth year he was in Nagasaki, desirous of acquiring a knowledge of English. A lady of my acquaintance, taking an interest in him, used to devote an hour or two every morning to teaching him to read and write; but it was not long before he came to me, despairing of his slow progress, and asking whether I could not get him a berth on board ship, where nothing but English was spoken. Believing him to be physically too weak to stand such an ordeal, I endeavoured to dissuade him, but without success; and so, with some misgiving, I shipped him as a cabin boy, which was the only position I could obtain for him, on board a small British schooner that used, in those days, to voyage between Nagasaki and Shanghai. How long he remained on board, I cannot say; but my recollection is that it was for a very considerable time—at all events, that is how he began the study of English."



# PERMANENCY OF OFFICE AND THE DISMISSED POLICE INSPECTORS.

Every official in Her Majesty's Colonial Service, on the permanent staff, holds office at Her Majesty's pleasure and is liable to instant dismissal, without any redress at law in the event of injustice being done. This applies alike to the gentlemen whose high offices entitle them to the prefix of "Honourable" and to the junior clerks. So thoroughly, however, is the system permeated with the principle of justice that it is recognised as a matter of fact, though not of law, that officers hold their appointments during good behaviour, and in the rare event of injustice being done the victim can always count on the support of public opinion if his case is fairly and clearly stated, and in the long run the injustice is generally righted. Though there are frequent occasions on which officials lay themselves open to criticism in detail, the British nation is proud, and justly proud, of its public service in the mass. Hongkong is no exception to the rule, and it is natural when scandal arises that the public should watch with a critical eye the working of the machinery on which so much of the colony's welfare depends, and be jealous of the justice of its administration, a cardinal principle on which the honour and efficiency of the service rest being that the same quality and measure of justice should be meted out throughout all ranks, from the highest to the lowest. This proposition, which seems so self-evident, we find to our great surprise disputed by the *China Mail*, which holds that a police officer with twenty years' honourable service has no right to complain if he is dismissed without a fair trial, and that the public has no right to concern itself about such a case of injustice, because it is all in the bond. We hold no brief for the dismissed Inspectors; they may have been unfaithful and merit the severest punishment the law allows; but we maintain that they are, like all other men, entitled to be considered innocent until they have been proved guilty, and that guilt can only be satisfactorily established upon a fair trial. Such a trial they have not had.

We do not hold the Hon. F. H. MAY primarily responsible for the lamentable bungle that has been made of the inquiry into the alleged corruption in the Police Force, though it is possible that most of the official blame may ultimately rest on his shoulders. There are older and presumably wiser heads than his in the Executive Council, and they ought to have recognised the necessity for a full and impartial inquiry by an officer or officers unconnected with the department, who should also have been commissioned to deal with cases of corruption reported in any other branch of the service. Names of suitable men for such a duty will readily suggest themselves. If the inquiry could have been held in public, Mr. Justice WISE sitting alone would have commanded full confidence; if it were deemed advisable to hold it in secret it would have been well to have associated with him say Captain RUMSEY and Mr. A. M. THOMSON, or any other two officials of sufficient standing and experience. We are aware that the law says the Governor may dismiss on the representation of the Captain Superintendent, but it is no use quibbling about technicalities of that kind; the Governor has power to order an inquiry by any one he chooses and His Excellency should have chosen some one other than the Captain Superintendent. Such a choice would not have constituted any slight upon Mr. MAY, but would simply have been in accordance with the elementary principles

of expediency and justice. A scandal almost on all fours with that which has recently convulsed Hongkong occurred recently at Manchester, but instead of the Chief Constable being left to deal with it in secret on his own responsibility—a course which would have outraged the public feeling of the whole kingdom—outside assistance was invoked and the Home Office deputed the Recorder of Birmingham to conduct the inquiry, which was held in public. So in Hongkong, an independent commission should have been appointed for the investigation, who would have approached it with minds entirely unbiassed by any direct connection with the Force, who would have done their duty to the public and dealt justly by the officers whose names were brought into the matter, sparing not where guilt was proved, but not assuming guilt from any possibly preconceived ideas having their origin in matters outside the scope of the inquiry. And if it were deemed expedient that the inquiry should be held in private, a full report should have been prepared with as little delay as possible for publication, so that the public might know in what condition the Service really was and how far it was to be trusted. As it is, things are almost worse than they were at the beginning, because we are still in the dark as to how far corruption extends, and to the suspicions existing on that score have been added suspicions as to the quality of justice administered in the internal management of the Service. Mr. MAY, we are fully convinced, has acted with a perfectly upright mind throughout, but human nature being subject to its limitations it seems almost inconceivable that he could possibly have approached the matter with a perfectly open mind, the matter being one that closely concerns himself as the head of the department, for if abuses have grown up in the Force it is possible that he and his predecessors in office may be to some extent to blame, just as in the Treasury frauds the head of the department was held culpable in respect of a felony committed by a subordinate. It would have been as sensible a proceeding to have appointed Mr. MITCHELL INNES on that occasion to inquire into the abuses in the Treasury as to appoint Mr. MAY to inquire into abuses in the Police Force in a serious crisis like the present. In connection with the Treasury scandal no stigma rested on Mr. MITCHELL INNES's moral character, but he was convicted of neglect of duty, and it is possible that Mr. MAY may have been guilty of similar neglect, or of errors of judgment. No man should be a judge in his own cause, and the cause of the Police is Mr. MAY's cause.

The practical question is, what is to be done now to put matters right, seeing they have been allowed to go all wrong. Either the dismissed officers must have a new trial or the sentences must be revised. A new trial would be the more satisfactory, because for all that is known to the contrary the men may deserve all they have got and a great deal more. All that is known for certain is that they have not had what is commonly understood by the term "a fair trial." It would be more satisfactory still if some high official from another colony or from India could be appointed to probe the whole question of corruption in the public service to the bottom, a gentleman having no intimate friends in the colony and who would hold himself aloof from local society, official and unofficial, until his investigation was completed. It is not usual under our English system of anonymity in journalism to refer to writers by name, but there is no rule without an

exception, and we propose to make an exception on the present occasion. The present scandal was in the first instance brought to the notice of the Government through the medium of Mr. J. J. FRANCIS, Q.C., who thereby rendered a conspicuous public service for which he deserves the public thanks. But Mr. FRANCIS, in the midst of his large practice as the leading barrister, finds time to edit the *Hongkong Telegraph*, and under the circumstances a special significance attaches to what appears in his paper with respect to the bribery scandal. In an article in the issue of the 14th July the following passage occurred:—"We only hope that there will be a thorough investigation, a public investigation if possible, made by men who have sufficient knowledge to conduct an inquiry of the kind and sufficient courage and independence to push it to its limits without fear, favour, or affection." It is unfortunate the Government did not adopt that advice in the first instance, as it will have to do in the long run. Further on in the same article the following passage occurs:—"Moral certainty justifies His Excellency the Governor in banishing aliens from the colony for five years under heavy penalties, in the absence of legal evidence of guilt. If there is strong presumption of guilt in the cases of the Europeans, even although there is no sufficient legal evidence to secure a conviction, the parties affected should at least cease to be members of the Police Force." That is a doctrine that can be accepted only with very large reservations, and when the full and complete inquiry comes to be made one of the points that will have to be gone into is whether the recent dismissals from the Police Force have been made on the principle embodied in the above quotation. If suspicion rests so heavily upon a man that he no longer commands confidence no doubt it is right that he should cease to be a member of the Police Force, but it is not right that he should, on mere suspicion, be deprived of the fruits of twenty years' previous good conduct. That, we take it, is what has been done. The evidence was of such a character that it could at best only establish strong presumption, and against a presumption arising from the evidence of convicts testifying before their gaoler, the said gaoler being the prosecutor and judge in the case, we think that twenty years' good character possessed by an accused European ought to count for a good deal.

There can unfortunately be no doubt that corruption has been going on, but whether to the extent amongst the European members of the Force that is generally supposed is open to doubt. At all events, the doctrine that it is better to let ten guilty men escape than convict an innocent one is at least preferable to its converse, that it is better to punish ten innocent men than let one guilty escape. If the officers who have been dismissed on "strong presumption of guilt" cannot be accorded a new trial justice demands that their sentences should be revised and that they should be allowed to retire on their pensions, which are in the nature of deferred pay and cannot justly be withheld except on absolute proof of misconduct. Our reason for saying that the corruption amongst the European members of the Force may not be so great as is supposed is that we do not consider that the gamblers' book containing their names should be accepted even as *prima facie* evidence against any one of them. All large gambling establishments, in Canton as well as in Hongkong, are said to have on their



staff bribe-distributors, and a list is kept of the persons on whose account bribes are paid, but it does not at all follow that the money ever reaches the persons against whose names the entries are made. If the money is demanded the bribe-distributor pays it over; if not, he puts it in his own pocket, and it is to his interest to make the list as long as possible. So in the present case, if any of the persons whose names are entered in the book wanted the money it would be at their disposal, and no doubt some would want it, but it is permissible to hope that some at least knew nothing about it, never looked for it, and never got it. In fact this theory has been accepted in part, for in connection with certain distinguished persons whose names appear it is assumed as a matter of course, and no doubt correctly that the money was taken as a perquisite by their servants, or at all events that it never reached the master's hands, whereas in the case of the police officers it would seem that the appearance of their names in the book is to be taken as damning evidence of guilt.

The Government has got itself into a very painful predicament, from which it must extricate itself at any cost of private mortification or wounded self-esteem. We sympathise with Mr. MAY, who has been placed in a radically false position. We sympathise also with H.E. the Governor, that in the closing months of his administration and on the eve of his retirement from the service he should have such an unpleasant case to deal with. We sympathise, too, with His Excellency's immediate advisers, who must now recognise the unsoundness of the advice they have given if what has been done is in accordance therewith. We look to them, however, one and all, to perform their duty, however painful it may be, and maintain the honourable traditions of the service to which they belong.

## II.

Referring to the dismissed police officers, the *China Mail* still maintains that abstract justice has nothing to do with the case. There are, however, not many, even in official circles, who coincide with our contemporary. It is generally recognised that a mistake has been made and that it must be rectified as far as possible. Apart, however, from the question of justice, the interest of the public and the interest of the officials are at one in demanding that dismissals from the public service should be made only on good and sufficient grounds substantiated by evidence. Dismissal on the ground of moral certainty of guilt, without adequate proof, would establish a pernicious and dangerous precedent which might in future be invoked to the prejudice of officials of any department or rank, and insecurity in the tenure of office is notoriously conducive to abuses of all descriptions. The official members of the Executive Council, when they come to deal with this matter again, will no doubt be mindful that the passage of Scripture, "For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again," may be capable of literal fulfilment in their own case, and that not only justice but expediency also demands that the same measure of fair play should be meted out to the suspected members of the Police Force that each one of the hon. gentlemen would expect for himself were a charge of dereliction of duty brought against him.

Failure to discover a particular gambling house is an obviously absurd charge upon which to sentence an officer to dismissal and forfeiture of pension. The medical staff might as well have been dismissed for failure to discover the plague on its first introduction to the colony in 1894. Men may fail to discover anything and it is utopian to suppose that we shall ever have a Police Force of such perfection that no crime will remain undiscovered. In fact the Captain Superintendent himself might as well be dismissed for failure to discover the corruption that was going on in the Force and of which he knew nothing until it was brought to his notice by direct information. If, however, it can be shown that there has been genuine neglect of duty on the part of the dismissed officers, a culpable lack of vigilance, but without guilty connivance with crime, and the offence is held to require a substantial penalty, the officers concerned might be adequately punished by the loss of a certain number of years' seniority of rank or compulsory retirement on a reduced pension. If there were any legal technicalities in the way of a rational treatment of the cases, which we do not believe there are, the difficulties could be overcome by passing a special Ordinance, which the Government could obtain any afternoon it chose to call the Legislative Council together.

Indeed, if the question of law be gone into it is doubtful whether the whole of the proceedings thus far taken against the men are not absolutely illegal *ab initio*. Section 22 of the Police Ordinance provides that whenever any subordinate officer or constable shall be guilty of any neglect or violation of duty he shall, upon conviction thereof before a Magistrate in a summary manner, forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding two hundred dollars, and in default of payment thereof be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding six months. Then comes section 24, which provides that the Governor may dismiss upon the representation of the Captain Superintendent. Is not that an additional, not a substituted, power? It may be argued that the men should first be taken before the Magistrate and that then, in the event of conviction, the Governor may, on the representation of the Captain Superintendent, dismiss them. In some cases it might be deemed that the punishment by the Magistrate sufficiently purged the offence, while in others it might be deemed undesirable that the offender should continue in the Force. It may be to meet the latter class of cases that section 24 is provided; and that before it can be brought into operation there must be a conviction before a Magistrate. This seems probable, because if a conviction by a Magistrate is necessary for the imposition of a fine of \$200 it is absurd to suppose that a fine of ten or fifteen thousand dollars, the capitalised value of a pension, can be inflicted without trial; and, moreover, if the evidence against the accused man was not deemed strong enough to take him before the Magistrate for the imposition of a \$200 fine it would not be strong enough to justify the heavier penalty. There is also the question raised by our correspondent "Runnymede" as to whether the Police Ordinance does in fact override the Colonial Office regulations prescribing the course to be followed in interdiction, suspension, and dismissal. If it does so it is not in express terms, but only constructively. Assuming that the Ordinance does override the Regulations the spirit of the latter ought still to be taken as a guide in proceedings under the Ordinance.

## RETRENCHMENT AND THE AMALGAMATION OF OFFICES.

When the Retrenchment Committee recommended the amalgamation of various offices the idea commended itself alike to the Government and the public. The service was overmanned and what better way could be found of reducing it than taking advantages of vacancies as they occurred to unite two or more offices in one man, so as to afford him an opportunity of usefully employing the time that was hanging heavily on his hands? Perhaps we may be accused of inconsistency in now questioning the wisdom of this course, but we attach no value to consistency in error, and recent events have demonstrated that the policy, in regard to some offices at all events, may be attended with serious disadvantage. Nor is it necessarily attended with economy. Take as an instance the offices of Colonial Secretary and Registrar-General, which are united in the person of the Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART. To get through the work he requires an Assistant Colonial Secretary and an Assistant Registrar-General, so that we have three men to do work which would not be at all too much for two. To have one man holding the office of Colonial Secretary and another that of Registrar-General, each doing his own work without the aid of an Assistant Head, would be a better arrangement. The Colonial Secretary in particular should be required to devote his whole time to the duties of that particular office. This is necessary on account of the importance and responsibility of the post, if not on account of the actual amount of the routine work. Then with regard to the Captain Superintendent of Police, who has nearly seven hundred men under his charge—over whom he exercises disciplinary powers far in excess of those entrusted to any officer in Her Majesty's military forces—it would appear that with the arrangement of the duties, the attention to be bestowed on the criminal investigation department, and the regular orderly room work, the occupant of the post would not have a great deal of spare time on his hands. If towns in England of less magnitude than Hongkong and not possessing such a large criminal population are held to require the undivided services of a chief constable we should say that still more so would that be the case here. And when to the duties of Captain Superintendent of Police are added those of Superintendent of the Fire Brigade and those of a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils and Sanitary Board, what time can the holder of the appointment possibly have to devote to the duties of his other appointment as Superintendent of the Gaol? The adequate discharge of such multifarious duties by one man would require almost supernatural powers. And while all these duties are piled on to Mr. MAY, an energetic and capable officer like Captain HASTINGS is allowed to devote all his time to the office of Assistant Harbour Master. Now it has been conclusively proved that the Harbour Master does not require an assistant; if the assistant does the work there is nothing for the Harbour Master to do, and *vice versa*, for there is not work enough for both of them. If it be deemed desirable to maintain the office of Assistant Harbour Master in order to have always ready a competent *locum tenens* when the Head of the Department is absent on leave, it would seem that when his services are not required in that capacity they might be advantageously utilised in other departments, as, for instance, as Superintendent of



the Gaol. The actual routine work of the Superintendent of the Gaol is not heavy, but the holder of the post might profitably devote a good deal of attention to the general administration and management of the establishment. At the Harbour Office Captain HASTINGS's services are practically lost to the public. We would suggest, therefore, that if the office of Assistant Harbour Master is to be retained it should be regarded as nominal only when the Head of the Department is in the colony and that the holder should as a rule hold the appointment of Superintendent of the Gaol. In any case we do not think the latter office ought to be held by the Captain Superintendent of Police, who has ample scope for the exercise of all his energy and the employment of all his time in his own proper department. The more personal attention the Head of the Force gives to the details of police work in all parts of the town, and the closer he is in touch with the men under his control, the less likely are abuses such as those recently exposed to again creep into the Force. The attention of the Captain Superintendent should therefore not be distracted by having responsibility for other departments thrown upon his shoulders.

#### CRIMINAL JURISDICTION AT SHANGHAI.

In his report on the trade of Shanghai for 1896 Consul-General Sir NICHOLAS HANNEN refers to the proposed extension of the Settlement in the following terms:—"The extension of the Settlement, which is so greatly needed, has not yet been accomplished, but I do not yet despair of seeing it come to pass. The negotiations may be long and complicated, but it is certain that the only people who oppose it are the mandarins, and there are signs that their opposition may be overcome." It would seem that the opposition will perforce have to be overcome by some means or other, for with the growing population the existing limits are becoming altogether too narrow. The extension of the Settlement would naturally lead to a revision of the Land Regulations; the title of which might at the same time be appropriately altered to "Municipal Regulations." One of our Shanghai contemporaries, the *Mercury*, boldly advocates that these should include criminal jurisdiction over the native residents. That would be a splendid reform if it could be brought about, but of that we fear little expectation can be entertained. "When the port was opened," says our contemporary, "there was, doubtless, nothing better to be done than to permit the Chinese officials to punish their nationals in their own way, but it is high time that this oriental and antiquated, not to say barbarous, system should be done away. There is no good reason, indeed, why a Chinese magistrate should any longer be tolerated in a foreign Settlement. Exception might perhaps be made in civil cases, since claims against Chinese are more easily enforced under Western law. But in police matters, at least, a system of foreign police judges, one for each police district, would be far more efficient than the present; and, instead of bamboo and cangue, there should be some sort of work-house for the employment in hard labour of the multitude of worthless vagabonds who fill the streets and require most of the attention of our constables." In the meantime it is satisfactory to know that the present occupant of the Mixed Court bench discharges his

duties in an acceptable manner, for Mr. Vice-Consul SCOTT, in his report on the working of the Court last year, says:—"In dealing with the various questions that have come before the Court, both civil and criminal, the Magistrate has evinced a sincere desire and endeavour to expedite cases and arrive at satisfactory and amicable arrangements. No appeal has been lodged against any decision, and by uniform courtesy and fairness he has earned a title to respect and confidence." In another part of his report Mr. SCOTT says that an acknowledgement is due to the Chinese officials, and especially to the Mixed Court Magistrate, for their ready co-operation in respect to sanitary precautions against an outbreak of the plague, and that the Mixed Court Magistrate had his offices and surroundings thoroughly overhauled and disinfected by the sanitary staff. We are told, too, that many of the better-class Chinese, interested no doubt in their property and rents, frankly recognised the situation and seconded the Council's efforts and arrangements. As was to be expected, however, great difficulty was experienced in this matter with the general body of Chinese, who, ignorant of all ideas of order and cleanliness, strongly resent any interference, however well meant or beneficial, with their ordinary habits and customs, and are totally unable to understand punishment for mere sanitary neglect. So far, however, the municipal authorities have, Mr. SCOTT says, been successful in their sanitary arrangements, but he adds that with the influx of some thousands of mill hands to meet the new demand for labour in the silk and cotton factories which are springing up inside the Settlement, especially under the peculiar and limited powers possessed by the Council in regulating and administering a mixed foreign and native population under the jurisdiction of the Chinese and some dozen or so foreign Treaty powers, their difficulties must increase. After mentioning also some difficulties experienced with European land owners in sanitary matters Mr. SCOTT says:—"Every year it is becoming more evident that a revision of the municipal regulations is an absolute necessity to the order and well-being of the Settlement." Complete autonomy under international guarantee is what Shanghai really requires, and although the attainment of that may at present be regarded as chimerical, it may possibly come some day.

#### CONSULS WANTED AT VLADIVOSTOCK AND IN TONKIN.

One of the spots of most interest to the world at the present time, from a commercial point of view, is Vladivostock. In a few years the Siberian railway will be completed, affording to residents in China the opportunity of reaching Europe without an ocean voyage. Sections of the line are already in operation and population and trade are rapidly increasing. When through communication is established it is expected that the development of Siberia will rival that of the Western States of North America after the completion of the transcontinental railways. We hear much of Russian political activity in Northern China, though unfortunately the information generally comes too late to be of service to our Foreign Office and is fragmentary and unreliable. Of commercial information, however, we have practically none at all, and English traders and manufacturers are left by their Government in complete ignorance of the conditions prevailing in the new el dorado that is being opened up for exploitation, of the articles that

might find a profitable market, and of the methods to be employed in cultivating the market. We should think there are few places where an able and energetic consul of ripe experience could find employment for his abilities promising greater advantage to his country than at Vladivostock. Would the China Association consider Vladivostock altogether outside its sphere? If not we would suggest that it might profitably take up this question. At the last meeting of the Hongkong branch the present Chairman complained that the Association was not active enough, that it was seldom or never heard of between the annual meetings, and that it accomplished nothing. Mr. FRANCIS was then elected Chairman by the Committee to afford him an opportunity of shaking up the dry bones, and from that day to this we do not recollect that the name of the Branch has once appeared in print as having said or done anything either wise or foolish. It has been, so far as is known outside the committee, a nonentity. However, the Association was not established as an agitating agency and its real solid influence is likely to be increased if it only acts or speaks when there is something useful to be done or said. We do not, therefore, complain of its preserving quiescence when there are no matters to engage its attention, and for the present, the West River having been opened and the transit pass system having been brought into working order, there are no very burning questions to be dealt with in China itself. We are continually hearing, however, of the importance of finding new openings for trade, and we should say one of the finest openings might be found in Siberia, with its increasing population and special requirements. We would commend this subject to the attention of the China Association, which at the same time might also cast its eye to the south and consider whether the advantages of having a Consul in Tonkin to collect commercial information would not be well worth the trifling cost involved.

#### THE DEFENCES OF HONGKONG.

The warning note sounded by our correspondent "Wide-awake" as to the exposed condition of the island to a hostile force will, we trust, not pass unheeded. Indeed, we have good reason for saying that the facts mentioned by him are all well known alike at the Admiralty, the War Office, and Downing Street. At the same time no harm can ensue from calling further attention to the weak spots in the position of this Colony. Some persons may, perhaps, be inclined to deprecate the exposure of the joints in our armour to outsiders, but it must not be supposed for a moment that the officers of the foreign squadrons in these waters are not all well acquainted with the facts mentioned by our correspondent. If any good object could be gained by preserving silence on the subject, we should of course have left the word unspoken. But secrecy will not conceal the assailable points, nor will it supply the colony with the garrison necessary for its effective defence. Let us therefore blazon it out before the world, and when the matter becomes notorious the Imperial Government may perhaps feel it incumbent upon them to supply the deficiency and to take steps to render the island impregnable by advancing the Kowloon frontier further northwards. The question to be considered by the British Government is this: Is Hongkong worth retaining, because, if so, it must, as the farthest British port in



Eastern Asia, be rendered impregnable to outside attack and wholly independent of the naval squadron, which, in the event of war, would be required for the protection of British merchant vessels afloat. This is the broad fact that has to be faced, and it will render necessary, sooner or later—and the sooner the better—an agreement with China for the cession of a small strip of territory and a few sandy outlying islands, which though of no great value to her she would be reluctant to part with except for some very substantial *quid pro quo*. We have outstanding accounts to settle with China, but unless these are pushed to settlement at once the authorities at Peking will presently deny their existence or plead condonation. The present therefore is the most favourable time for bringing this matter to head.

### HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held at the Council Chamber on the 13th September. Present:—

His EXCELLENCY the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, G.C.M.G.

Colonel ELSDALE (Officer Commanding the Forces).

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. M. GOODMAN (Attorney-General).

Hon. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Acting Director of Public Works).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Ho Kai.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE (Clerk of Councils).

#### MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

#### TRAMWAYS FOR KOWLOON.

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING—I rise, sir, to move the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorise the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, to lay and maintain tramways on certain public roads at Kowloon, in the colony of Hongkong and to confer upon the said Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, certain other rights, powers, and privileges. Any remarks that may be necessary I propose to make at the second reading.

Hon. C. P. CHATER seconded.

Bill read a first time.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—I rise, Sir, to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorise the appropriation of a supplementary sum of three hundred and forty-one thousand and twenty-five dollars and thirty-seven cents to defray the charges of the year 1896. The sum which the Council is now asked to vote, namely, \$341,025.37, represents the nominal excess of the actual expenditure for the year 1896 over the estimated expenditure. The real excess comes to \$226,467.69, the difference between the nominal and the real excess being \$114,557.68. It is owing to the fact that credit cannot be taken for the savings effected in the various establishments nor in the public works extraordinary or public works recurrent that the difference between the actual excess and the nominal excess appears. The savings on the public works recurrent amount to \$18,278.66, on public works extraordinary to \$82,705.21, and in ordinary expenditure to \$13,573.81; total, \$114,557.68, as already stated. Although the Council is asked to vote this sum of \$341,025.37, the actual surplus of revenue over expenditure, if we exclude the amount chargeable on the loan account for public works extraordinary, is \$134,963.57, the

actual figures being—revenue, \$2,609,878.94; expenditure, \$2,474,910.37. I propose to advert to only two items in these supplementary estimates. The first is the military expenditure; and the second the excess on the Praya Reclamation. The total expenditure for military purposes, or rather, the total amount expended in 1896 upon military matters, was \$523,128.45. That total is made up as follows:—Military expenditure actually paid in 1896 on account of 1896, \$402,080.76; contribution for barracks services, \$40,000; Volunteer expenses, \$13,448.93; and balance due for 1895, \$67,598.76. The \$402,080.76 expended in 1896, and actually paid in 1896, towards the military contribution represented 17½ per cent. of the estimated revenue for 1896, exclusive of land sales premia. The actual figures for 1896 were \$2,339,019.95, and the total for the military contribution \$409,328.49. The difference of \$7,247.73 has been met out of the revenue for 1897. It will be noticed that the total sum of \$523,128.45 which has been paid for military purposes in 1896 represents about 22 per cent. of the revenue for 1896, but if we take off \$67,598.76, the balance paid in 1896 of what was due in 1895, it reduces the expenditure for military purposes to about 19½ per cent. Of course, the sum of \$402,080 is the actual amount really spent on what is known as the military contribution proper. The other items were voted separately and, although coming under the heading of military purposes, do not fall under the well-known head of military contribution. In regard to the Praya Reclamation I may say that in 1895, the sum of \$40,000 was appropriated as the Government's contribution towards certain works connected with the Praya Reclamation. The work was done and the claim made towards the end of 1895, but the sum was not paid until January, 1896, and that is the reason it appears as excess in the estimates for 1896. I shall be glad to give further information if any hon. member wishes it upon any matters connected with the supplementary estimates.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

The Bill was read a second time and referred to the Finance Committee.

After the meeting of the Finance Committee the COLONIAL TREASURER reported that all the items had been unanimously recommended with the exception of the military contribution, against which all the unofficial members voted. Council then went into Committee on the Bill which was reported without amendment.

On the motion for the third reading.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Not that it will make any difference in the ultimate result, but I think it might be well to postpone the third reading of the Bill until the next meeting of the Council, so that the unofficial members may have an opportunity of meeting and considering their position in view of what has transpired in the Finance Committee.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I do not know what was done in the Finance Committee. You have had the estimates before you a long time, you know.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The estimates have been in the hands of hon. members for three weeks. All the items, with the exception of the military contribution, were agreed to unanimously. That was objected to on principle.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Was there anything new?

Hon. C. P. CHATER—No, sir, absolutely nothing. We voted against the item to be perfectly consistent in what we had done. We have petitioned and we have protested, and the Secretary of State absolutely took no heed of our doings but ruled that the Ordinance should be passed. We recorded our vote against it, but it was passed by the official majority, and we want to show that even now the unofficial members are not in favour of it.

HIS EXCELLENCY—That can be done now just as well as next week?

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I think so, sir.

A vote on the third reading was then taken with the following result:—

|                                       |                             |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| FOR.                                  | AGAINST.                    |
| The Acting Director of Public Works.  | Hon. Wei A Yuk.             |
| The Colonial Treasurer.               | Hon. J. J. Bell-<br>Irving. |
| The Harbour Master.                   | Hon. E. R. Belilios.        |
| The Captain Superintendent of Police. | Hon. T. H. White-<br>head.  |

The Attorney-General. Hon. Ho Kai.  
The Colonial Secretary. Hon. C. P. Chater.  
The Colonel Commanding.

The motion was therefore carried and the Bill read a third time and passed.

#### THE INFECTED MILK ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have, sir, to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to prevent the spread of infectious disease arising from the consumption of contaminated or unwholesome milk. It is, of course, of the utmost importance to secure a proper supply of wholesome milk in this colony. No doubt the public are indebted to those who have undertaken to supply such milk, and a commercial enterprise of that kind is worthy of our support and consideration. At the same time the high price of milk acts as a great temptation to unscrupulous persons to increase the quantity of milk by the addition of water or by adulteration in other ways. The report of the Government Analyst proves that last year there were several samples which he analysed in which he found that water had been added. Well now, we cannot be at all sure as to the source whence the water so added is derived, and as one cannot help feeling, after reading the analyst's report, that there are a very large number of cases where water has been added to the milk without being detected, it naturally follows that some provision should be made to ensure the purity of the milk supply. The Bill before the Council deals principally with another danger, namely, dairies where animals are infected or where persons, while suffering from an infectious disease, are engaged in dairy work, such as milking cows or handling milk. I would like to call your attention to the objects and reasons which I appended to the bill and which are as follows:—"It was found necessary in England to confer power on the Medical Officer of Health to inspect dairies, and in case he should be of opinion that infectious disease was caused by the consumption of milk supplied from any such dairy, he was required to report his opinion to the local authority. Thereupon, the local authority was to call upon the dairyman to show cause why an order should not be made by such authority requiring him not to supply any milk from such dairy till the order should be withdrawn. These powers were conferred, in England, by section 4 of The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890. The present Ordinance, suggested by the Medical Officer of Health, proceeds upon similar lines, having regard to local circumstances. Sections 5, which is based upon the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders of the Privy Council and Local Government Board in England, provides a penalty in the case of a dairyman allowing any infected person to milk the animals, assist in the conduct of the dairy, or to reside in such part of the dairy as may be used for the housing of cattle or storage of milk. It is hoped that the fact of such an Ordinance being brought into force in this colony will enable the Medical Officer of Health to exercise more effective supervision over the milk supplies of the colony and cause dairymen to use greater vigilance to prevent the possibility of contamination of the milk sold by them." As to the term "local authority," we have no local authority here in the sense in which it is used in the English Act, the nearest approach to the local authority we have here being the Governor in Council. I do not anticipate that in the case of some of the milk supplies there will be much occasion for these powers to be exercised. There is no doubt that these powers will act as a wholesome check over dairymen and they may have to be used in the case of a few dairies, the milk from which is sometimes not altogether free from suspicion. With these few remarks I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read a second time.

Council went into Committee on the Bill, which passed through all its stages without amendment.

#### THE FIRE BRIGADE ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—As regards the Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Hongkong Fire Brigade Ordinance, 1868, I ask your Excellency's permission to postpone the second reading for the present. I would like, however, to make one or two observations



in regard to the Bill so as to prevent any misunderstanding as to its nature and scope. The object of the Bill is to enable rules and regulations and departmental orders to be made and also to enable the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade himself to inflict penalties not exceeding \$10 or confinement to the station—not imprisonment—for not exceeding seven days, and with the result that if members of the Brigade refuse to pay the penalty inflicted upon them or to undergo the confinement to station they shall be liable to dismissal. That is all. As the laws stands at the present time the liability of a member of the Fire Brigade is to a fine of \$25, instead of \$10 as mentioned in the Bill, and to enforce such a fine a man must be taken before the Magistrate. This is thought to be not highly conducive to discipline. It must be borne in mind that when the former Fire Brigade Ordinance was passed in 1868—nearly thirty years ago—there were a good many volunteer members of the Fire Brigade. There were many gentlemen who volunteered their services in time of need in the Brigade and naturally they might have strongly objected to being punished by the Superintendent himself, preferring perhaps to go before a Magistrate. I think, perhaps, there is some misconception in this. It has been lost sight of that since that time the constitution of the Brigade has very materially altered. I am informed that at the present time there are scarcely any European members of the Brigade who are not members of the Police Force. They are policemen who get extra pay each month for belonging to the Fire Brigade, and therefore it is a very differently constituted Brigade from what it was. However, there is no violent hurry about this matter and I would ask your Excellency to allow the second reading of the Bill to stand over for the present.

The second reading was therefore postponed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council adjourned until next Monday.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Finance Committee considered the supplementary estimates. Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart (Colonial Secretary) presided.

The CHAIRMAN said he would follow the usual course and take each item as it occurred in the Ordinance.

#### PENSIONS.

On the item Pensions, \$15,054.71,

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked how the scale of pensions in this colony compared with the scale in other Crown colonies. It seemed to him that pensions were always on the increase.

The CHAIRMAN, in reply, said that so far as he was acquainted with pensions in other colonies they were practically on the same footing as the pensions in this colony. The scale of pensions, so far as he knew, was the same in all Eastern Crown colonies and, he believed, much the same in the West Indies also. A man in the civil service had to serve until he was 55 years of age before he was entitled to a pension unless he was invalided before he reached that age. The pensions of the Police were dealt with by a special Ordinance.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT of POLICE said the scale of police pensions in Singapore was the same as in Hongkong.

The HARBOUR MASTER pointed out that as the colony got older and public servants left year by year it necessarily followed that the pension list must increase.

The item was recommended.

#### LI HUNG-CHANG'S LUNCHEON.

On the item, Governor and Legislature, \$223.19,

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked why was this expenditure incurred when the Ambassador's acceptance of the Governor's invitation to luncheon was only conditional that his landing in Hongkong did not entail quarantine at Singapore and the Government was not in a position to give any satisfactory assurance as to that condition.

The CHAIRMAN—So far as I remember, the Government was not aware of the fact that he was going to make his acceptance of the invitation conditional. The luncheon was prepared and it was believed he would land.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—A telegram was sent to Shanghai and His Excellency Li Hung-chang replied that he would land if the land-

ing did not entail quarantine at Singapore. To that he did not receive a reply.

The CHAIRMAN—I am not thoroughly acquainted with the facts of the case, but if you desire to know what took place, the information can be obtained. So far as I understand, preparations for the luncheon, were made because it was thought His Excellency would land and be entertained.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I had two interviews with the Ambassador when he passed through the colony and at the second one I expressed my sorrow that he did not avail himself of the Governor's invitation, and his explanation was the one I have just given.

The CHAIRMAN—There may have been some misunderstanding, but that is a matter that can be very easily cleared up from the papers on the subject. If the hon. member had given me private notice of his intention to ask the question I would have looked into the matter.

The item was recommended.

#### THE POLICE SCANDAL.

On the item, Police, \$8,941.71,

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I would like to know whether the evidence taken by the hon. the Captain Superintendent of Police and the Crown Solicitor in connection with the charges against Inspector Stanton and other members of the Police Force was submitted to the hon. the Attorney-General for his opinion as to its sufficiency before action was taken thereon, and whether His Excellency sanctioned the dismissal of Inspector Stanton and the other members of the Police Force with the advice of the Executive Council or on the sole recommendation of the Captain Superintendent of Police.

The CHAIRMAN—I do not see what this has to do with the vote under consideration. It appears to me that the proper course to adopt is for the hon. member to give notice of the question in the usual manner in Council.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—It is quite in accordance with Parliamentary practice to ask for information concerning a certain department when a vote in connection therewith comes up for consideration.

The CHAIRMAN—In this case the expenditure, which was incurred in 1896, has nothing to do with the matter alluded to by the hon. member. It is not from any desire to withhold information, but it would be more regular to give notice in the usual manner, when no doubt the hon. member will receive an answer to his question.

Item recommended.

#### THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

On the item, Military Expenditure, \$82,913.45,

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I move that this item be omitted. We have discussed this question of the military contribution from time to time very fully and I am still of the opinion that it is quite out of proportion to the revenue of the colony. It is a monstrous and a most unjust charge and it acts most injuriously upon the welfare of the colony.

The HARBOUR MASTER—Question.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—It is higher than any contribution required from any other Colonial Government, and why we should be thus mulcted and imposed upon as we are it is impossible to conceive. I therefore move the rejection of the item.

The CHAIRMAN—Does anybody second that?

Hon. C. P. CHATER—This is a matter with which I think it is almost hopeless for us to attempt to do much more.

The CHAIRMAN—Do I understand that you second the motion?

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I am coming to that directly. We have done what we could in this matter. We have protested, we have petitioned, and we have pointed out to the Secretary of State for the Colonies that we should like to be placed on the same footing as our sister colony, Singapore, but to all these protests and petitions we have had the one answer, that the vote must be made. Yet to show the Secretary of State that we do not willingly pass this vote I second the resolution of my hon. friend the member for the Chamber of Commerce.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—As regards the greater part of the vote it has been settled by Ordinance 21 of 1896 which was passed to save continual debate on this question. The

Ordinance was passed by this Council after the protests had gone home, and a vote of 17½ per cent. of the revenue, excluding land premia, is the military contribution fixed by the Ordinance, the object of which was to prevent the recurrence of debates year by year on the subject. It is impossible for us, sitting in Finance Committee, to repeal that Ordinance, and it would be most absurd, having passed that Ordinance, to say that we would not vote the money. We must be consistent.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—My object in seconding is just to be, as the hon. the Attorney-General has expressed it, consistent. The Bill he refers to was passed against the unofficial vote. It was agreed to by the official majority and on the present occasion we want it to be kept on record that it has again been put through, as it no doubt will be, by the official majority.

Hon. HO KAI—For the same reason I support the hon. member for the Chamber of Commerce. The military contribution of 17½ per cent. was passed by the official majority against the unofficials, and it is no use to say that that Ordinance is law. No doubt the Ordinance becomes law because the official majority is against us, but it is no law as far as the unofficial minority is concerned. The representatives of this colony are still against the 17½ per cent., whether it was passed by the official majority or not. As long as the wishes of the unofficials are not granted so long will they from time to time record their opposition to the military contribution.

The CHAIRMAN thought the simpler plan would be to state that the unofficial members objected to the item.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—Take the vote.

The HARBOUR MASTER—The inference to be drawn from the remarks of the hon. member opposite (Hon. Ho Kai) is that if anybody does not approve of a law that is passed it is not binding on him. This law has been passed and it has not been approved by certain members, and therefore it is not considered binding!

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—The unofficials voted in accordance with their conscience against the law enforcing 17½ per cent.

The amendment was then taken as follows:—

FOR. AGAINST.

Hon. Wei A Yuk. The Acting Director of Public Works.

Hon. J. J. Bell. The Colonial Treasurer.

Irving. The Harbour Master.

Hon. E. R. Belilios. The Captain Superintendent of Police.

Hon. T. H. White. The Attorney-General.

Hon. Ho Kai. The Colonel Commanding.

Hon. C. P. Chater. The Colonial Secretary.

The amendment was therefore lost by one vote and the item was recommended.

#### THE TAIPINGSHAN PROPERTY.

On the item, Public Works Recurrent, \$24,047.79,

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Notwithstanding your ruling, Mr. Chairman, I should like to repeat the question which I put at a meeting of the Council a few weeks ago in regard to the Taipingshan property, an asset which cost the ratepayers the best part of a million of dollars. The question I put last month was—"What steps do the Government now propose to take with a view to the speedy disposal of the Crown land available at Taipingshan, and what were the causes of the failure of the Government to obtain a bid for any lot at the recent sale by public auction?" Mr. Chairman, you replied as follows—"The Government propose to adopt the usual course and to wait for applications to sell the land by auction. With regard to the latter portion of the question I regret that it is not possible to state to what causes the failure alluded to by the hon. member was due." That answer in regard to this property, which cost the ratepayers nearly a million dollars, is no answer at all. It is an evasive reply. I certainly think the ratepayers are entitled to know why no bids were received for the property. Possibly the Director of Public Works can enlighten us. If he is not in a position to do so I have no doubt the senior unofficial member could enlighten the Council, because there is not another man in the colony—in fact there are no half dozen men in the colony whose knowledge and experience of property and the management thereof are equal to the senior unofficial member's. Several ratepayers have



## SUPREME COURT.

7th September.

## IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

CHEONG YAU TO AND OTHERS, APPELLANTS,  
V. THE BANK OF CHINA, JAPAN, AND  
THE STRAITS, LIMITED, RESPONDENTS.

In this case the Chief Justice delivered the following judgment:—In this case the appeal is from a judgment of my own which was pronounced in the Court in its original jurisdiction on the 21st December, 1896, in favour of the respondents, the plaintiffs in the Court below. The suit was brought by the respondents to recover from the appellants, as executors and executrix of Cheong Kai, deceased, the sum of \$100,000, the amount due under the joint and several bond of Cheong Koon Sing and Cheong Kai to the respondents, dated the 25th August, 1891, and conditioned for payment to the respondents of \$100,000 on default being made by Cheong Koon Sing in the due performance and observance of the duties, obligations, matters, and things contained in the said bond.

It cannot be otherwise than unsatisfactory for a judge to sit on the hearing of an appeal from his own judgment, but, having regard to the constitution of the Court of Appeal in this Colony, the inconvenience cannot be avoided whenever the Full Court is called upon to review the decision of one of its judges sitting in a Court of first instance. The most that a judge can do in such a case is to listen carefully and dispassionately to the arguments addressed to the Court on behalf of the appellants with a view of showing that his judgment was wrong, and, if he finds, either on consideration of those arguments or from his own further examination of the case, that he took an erroneous view of the facts or of the law of the case, to be willing to admit the mistake and reverse or modify the judgment. So much I have honestly tried to do in respect of the present appeal.

With regard, first, to the facts of the case, it was said in the judgment under appeal—quoting a remark of Mr. Drummond, counsel for the present appellants—that “the law formed a very small part of the case, and the main difficulty was in deciding as to the effect of the evidence.” This view of the relative importance of the law and the facts of the case was confirmed at the hearing of the appeal, by far the greater portion of the arguments on both sides being directed to the character and effect of the evidence. A perusal of my judgment on the original hearing will show that I then formed a clear opinion on these points and also that I stated that opinion very fully. It appears to be sufficient for me now to say that, although I followed very carefully Mr. Robinson's elaborate argument for the appellants on this part of the case, I did not find that it changed or modified the views which I had already formed and expressed in my judgment. There was, of course, no additional evidence taken at the hearing of the appeal, and I do not think that any fresh light was thrown by the argument for the appellants on the facts as they were presented to the Court of first instance. The result, therefore, is that, so far as the facts of the case are concerned, I abide by my former opinion that they make entirely in favour of the respondents.

With regard to the legal aspects of the case, it may be convenient to re-state the propositions of law advanced on behalf of the appellants at the original hearing. They were formulated by Mr. Drummond in the following terms:—“That the effect of the arrangement made between the creditor (the Bank), the debtor (Cheong Koon Sing), and Kan Sing Toi was to discharge the surety (Cheong Kai) first, by depriving him of a remedy to which he was entitled, or, in other words, by making a material alteration of the debtor's position without the assent of the surety and without any reservation of the rights of the creditor against him; secondly, by giving time to the debtor; and, thirdly, (a) by discharging the debtor, and (b) by taking substituted security.” With regard to the point as to depriving the surety of a remedy to which he was entitled, it was said, in further explanation, that before the agreement of the 27th March, 1892, the debtor could have

sued Kan Sing Toi, but that the effect of that agreement was to preclude him from doing that afterwards.

The first of these propositions was not argued by Mr. Robinson, but he stated at the same time that he did not withdraw it. The remaining propositions were re-argued at more or less length. So far as the whole of these grounds of defence go, it seems again sufficient for me to say that the opinion which I expressed with regard to them on the original hearing remains unchanged, that is to say, I do not think the appellants have succeeded in establishing them as a defence to the suit.

But Mr. Robinson was not content with urging again the contentions of law which had been put forward on behalf of the appellants at the original hearing. He advanced two fresh propositions of law as applicable to the facts of the case in favour of the appellants, and he cited cases in support of them.

The first of these propositions was that, whether the debiting of Kan Sing Toi's advance account was to be regarded as the taking of additional security or of substituted security, the cancellation of that debit entry on the 30th June, 1894, was equivalent to a surrender of the security; that such surrender operated to the prejudice of the surety by depriving him of a security to which he was entitled; and that the surety was therefore discharged, either absolutely, or to the extent of \$97,222.23, the sum for which the entry was actually made, or, at any rate, to the extent of £1s. 30.000, the sum for which Kan Sing Toi on the 27th March, 1892, expressly authorized the entry to be made. In considering this contention it is desirable to indicate the view which I take of the nature of the security in question. This point is thus dealt with in my judgment pronounced on the original hearing:—“The question to be determined is, whether the Bank, in agreeing to debit Kan Sing Toi's account with the amount of the bills of the Kwong Fuk and the Wing Tung Yan Banks, intended to take a further security in lieu of the original security, that is to say, the liability of Cheong Koon Sing for the bills, or whether they merely intended to take a security additional to that liability. It is evident that this is in the main a question of fact, and it will be gathered from what I have already said that there was no intention on the part of the Bank to release the liability of Cheong Koon Sing and to accept a further or additional security in lieu of it. I think that what the Bank really did was to agree to have recourse to any margin available on Kan Sing Toi's account as an additional security to the claim which they had against Cheong Koon Sing, and that such recourse was not by way of substitution for that claim. And it is clear that the taking of security which is merely additional to, and not in lieu of, that originally taken from the debtor will not discharge the surety. It was said by North J. in *Clarke v. Birley*, 4 C.D. 437, ‘It has never been held that the mere acceptance of additional security, unaccompanied by a contract to give further time, would produce the result of releasing the surety.’” In this view of the matter—to which I adhere—Mr. Robinson's argument must be limited to the effect of the surrender by the creditor of an additional security.

The case principally relied upon in support of the argument was *Pledge v. Buss*, Johns. 663. The effect of this and other cases relating to the same subject-matter is, as was said by Hannen J. in *Wulff v. Jay*, L. R. 7 Q. B. 764, very clearly expressed in the notes in *Rees v. Berrington*, 2 White and Tudor's Leading Cases in Equity, 6th edn., at p. 1141. The note referred to is as follows:—“As a surety, on payment of the debt, even a mere endorser of a bill of exchange, is entitled to all the securities in the hands of the creditor, whether he is aware of their existence or not, even though they were given after the contract of suretyship, if the creditor who has had, or ought to have had, them in his full possession or power, loses them or permits them to get into the possession of the debtor, or does not make them effectual by giving proper notice, the surety to the extent of such security will be discharged. . . . A surety, moreover, will be released if the creditor, by what he has done, cannot, on payment by the surety, give him the securities in exactly the same condition as they formerly stood in his hands.”

urged me to get information from the Government in regard to this asset as they are anxious to know whether we are going to derive anything approaching the money expended upon it.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—There is one thing I should like to say in regard to this matter. As Attorney-General I naturally had a great deal to do with the numerous applicants who came before the Committee asking for compensation when the land was resumed, and according to them the value of the land was really extraordinary. It was perfectly marvellous how valuable the property was. They thought they were being dealt with very hardly in having this valuable property taken from them, and my humble endeavour on behalf of this colony was to cut down as many as these claims as possible. Aided by Mr. Sercombe Smith we succeeded in reducing the claims, but in the end the amount paid was no doubt a very large one. Then we were dealing with the seller. Now we have to deal with the buyer, who tells a very different tale. We say it is valuable property. “It is naught, it is naught,” says the buyer. So you see the other side of human nature. The buyers say “Why do you demand such prices? Why don't you let us have the property very much cheaper?” That is the kind of human nature which always presents a difficulty in the matter. The reason why those people did not bid was because they wanted to get the property much cheaper than the price the Government were prepared to sell it at, and they tried to make out it was not worth so much. Ask the people who did not bid what was their reason. Surely the Government are not expected to tell what was in the minds of these people when they did not bid. If the Government take my advice they will hold on to the property until they get a reasonable price for it. In time the demand will be so great that people will be prepared to give a fair price for the ground. I am not a professional man as to values, but I should think the senior unofficial member will be struck with the idea that a good many people wanted the property much cheaper and they would not bid because they thought they would in a way boycott the Government and make them sell a great deal more cheaply. That is the best answer I can give. The property ought to be worth a good deal more now than when the Government took it over, in its insanitary state as it has been properly drained and put in good order. I do not think the Government are to be blamed because they did not rush at the buyers and insist upon their taking the property on their own terms.

Hon. HO KAI said that perhaps the price was fair, but the Crown rent had been raised, it being now about ten to twenty times what it was formerly.

After other remarks the CHAIRMAN said that the question had no direct bearing on the vote before the Committee. Hon. members had every opportunity of bringing this matter before the Council in the usual way.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I submit that it is quite in order. On a money vote before the House members according to “May's Parliamentary practice” are entitled to the fullest amount of information, and I submit that the Government should now give us some explanation as to their failure to obtain any bid whatever for the lots put up in the month of May. I have listened with a good deal of attention to the remarks of the Attorney-General, but I am just about as wise now as when I asked the question. I should like some information before this item is recommended.

The CHAIRMAN then put the item to the Committee and it was recommended.

## ADJOURNMENT.

The Committee then adjourned.

## THE BENNETT CASE.

## JUDGMENT FOR THE DEFENDANTS.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE “DAILY PRESS.”]

Shanghai, 12th August.

A lengthy judgment has been delivered in the Bennett case by the Chinese Court. It entirely favours the defendants on all points and orders Bennett to return the steamers.



Applying these rules deduced from decided cases to the facts of the present case, I am of opinion that the appellants' contention cannot prevail. It must, I think, be taken that the right to charge Kan Sing Toi's account was an additional security, given after the contract of surety ship was made, and therefore that the Bank would not be justified in dealing with it in such a way as to prevent them from delivering it intact to Cheong Kai in the event of his paying Cheong Koon Sing's debt to them. But let us consider what it was that the Bank did on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 1894—the act which, as the appellants allege, brings the case within the operation of the above-stated rules of law. On that date the Bank wrote off in their books the debit entry of \$97,222.23 in the advance account of Kan Sing Toi in respect of the bills of the two banks with which he was connected. This entry had been made in that account on the 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1892. But it is clear that the validity of this additional security taken by the Bank did not depend upon the making of that entry in their books. This was a mere matter of book-keeping. The security was created by an agreement, partly express and partly implied, between the Bank and Kan Sing Toi, and it could have been realized at any time by the Bank, whether or not there was any debit entry relating to it in the account. The entry was not made until the expiration of two months after the making of the agreement, and it cannot be doubted that during that interval of time the security might have been realized by the Bank. Similarly, the cancellation of the entry on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 1894, was a mere matter of book-keeping. It was made by the Bank on their own motion and not in pursuance of any agreement with Kan Sing Toi or any one else, and therefore it appears to me that it did not determine the security or affect it in any way. As Mr. Francis put it in his argument, "the Bank acquired nothing by making the entry and they lost nothing by cancelling it." So far as I can see, there is nothing to prevent the Bank, if they think fit, from restoring the debit entry at any time, and in such an event I imagine nobody would be one penny the better or the worse for their doing so. I think, therefore, that the Bank have not dealt with the security in such a way as to render themselves unable, on payment by the surety, to give it to him in exactly the same condition as it formerly stood in their hands.

There are one or two other considerations bearing on this part of the case to which I may usefully refer. Supposing even that the cancellation of the entry had the effect, in point of form, of putting an end to the security, it is yet pertinent to ask, was the security really at the time subsisting and of value? It is evident that the security was in its inception no more than a contingent security, or, in other words, its value or its worthlessness depended entirely on the fact whether or not the shares held as security for the advances made on that account, on being sold, would yield any surplus or margin beyond the amount of those advances. But we know that the contingency was never realized; the value of the shares was not at any time sufficient to cover the advances made in respect of them. On this point Mr. Darby's evidence, given in his *de bene esse* examination of the 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1896, is as follows:—"Nothing has been realized in respect of Kan Sing Toi's securities which can go in reduction of that debit of \$97,222.23. A large number of the securities have been sold, but the amounts realized have not been sufficient to pay off the advances originally made on these securities. Kan Sing Toi's account was transferred on the 5<sup>th</sup> April, 1895, to the books of the new Bank, and there was due from him on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1896, \$77,712.19, including interest up to that date, against which the Bank still hold securities which have been valued as of the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1896, and press copy of which valuation I can produce. That sum of \$97,222.23 debited to Kan Sing Toi as previously stated was written off by being credited to him in account under date in the old ledger, the 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1894. The balance of \$77,712.19 does not therefore include any liability in respect of these bill transactions but only loans on shares." From the press copy of the valuation to which Mr. Darby referred it appears that on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1896, the

state of the advance account was as follows—the indebtedness was, as above mentioned, \$77,712.19, while the only security held by the Bank was 500 shares in the China Sugar Refinery Company, Limited, valued at \$63,000. It follows therefore that on that date there was a deficiency on the account as against Kan Sing Toi of \$14,712.19. The shares held as security against the advances have therefore never yielded a surplus or balance available in reduction of the sum of \$97,222.23 and it is very unlikely that they will ever do so. It is not contended on behalf of the appellants that this failure of the expectations which were originally entertained as to the probability of a margin on the shares is due to any neglect or default on the part of the Bank. The debit entry subsisted without effect from the 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1892, to the 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1894, and I am of opinion that when it was cancelled on the latter date the security to which it had reference was valueless and practically non-existent, and further that this was or might have been known to the parties concerned. But it is clear on the authorities that the securities to which the above-stated rules of law apply must be subsisting and of some value: see the observations of Lord Eldon C. in *Copis v. Middleton*, 1 Tur. and Russ. at p. 229, and of Bramwell L.J. in *Rainbow v. Juggins*, Q.B.D. at p. 423.

The second of the two points put forward by Mr. Robinson was founded on the doctrine of estoppel by representation. He urged that the words used by Mr. Darby to Cheong Koon Sing at the conclusion of the interview of the 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1892, even if they did not actually amount to an express release of Cheong Koon Sing's liability for Kan Sing Toi's indebtedness, were reasonably so understood by him; that he acted on that understanding by not pressing the two banks with which Kan Sing Toi was connected for promissory notes and other securities in the same way as he pressed the other banks; that he forebore such pressure to his loss and prejudice, since, if he had exerted it, he would probably have received a large sum of money from the two banks in question; that all these circumstances were known to the Bank; and that they are sufficient to raise an estoppel against the Bank by way of precluding them from denying the release. The principal case cited in support of this contention was the well known one of *Freeman v. Cooke*, 2 Exch. 654.

With regard to this argument it may be observed that it is inconsistent with the proved facts of the case and further that it rests on a suppositious state of facts. In the first place, I am not satisfied that, in point of fact, Cheong Koon Sing understood the conversation of the 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1892, as resulting in a release of his liability in respect of the bills of the two banks in question. This view is borne out by the fact that he did not in truth forbear to press these two banks; at any rate, as Mr. Pollock pointed out at the hearing, he received from them, subsequently to the conversation referred to, sums of \$9,000 and \$4,000 respectively. Secondly, even if these amounts are laid out of view for the moment, there is no evidence to show that if Cheong Koon Sing had, in default of the arrangement of the 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1892, put pressure on the two banks referred to, he would have succeeded in obtaining promissory notes and other securities from them. There is no more than supposition for this suggestion. The pressure which he had used with these two banks before the interview was not successful; there is no reason to think that, supposing no interview had taken place or that it had ended with a different result from that suggested on behalf of the appellants, similar pressure could have been applied with more favourable consequences.

For these reasons I come to the conclusion that the judgment of the Court below should be affirmed and the appeal be dismissed with costs.

The *Puisne Judge*.—This is an appeal from the judgment of the Chief Justice in favour of the plaintiff Bank delivered on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1896. The appeal came on for hearing on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1897, and lasted for over four days. The facts of the case have been set out so fully in the judgment appealed from that it will be needless for me to go into them again further than may be necessary in considering the arguments of counsel which were founded on the facts. The appellants are the executor and executrix

of Cheong Kai, who was surety to the extent of \$100,000 for the due performance of his duties of one Cheong Koon Sing, the compradore of the plaintiff Bank.

The claim is for \$100,000, being part of losses sustained by the said Bank in the ordinary course of their business, for which it is alleged that the appellants as representatives of such surety as aforesaid are liable.

On the hearing of the appeal it was contended generally, amongst other things, that the evidence of the compradore was more worthy of belief than that of Mr. Darby, the accountant of the Bank, but on reading the evidence carefully I am strongly of opinion that where discrepancies occur in the evidence given by these two witnesses the evidence of Mr. Darby is far more worthy of credence. Again, it was contended that the compradore, being a Chinaman, was not properly acquainted with the true meaning and import of the various letters that passed between him and the Bank. I think, however, that this contention cannot be sustained for various reasons. Firstly, Mr. Darby states that he himself explained some of the letters to him. Secondly, the man from his then position and his previous history, as detailed by himself, was bound to have an ordinary business knowledge of English and would not be likely to sign anything he did not understand. Thirdly, the compradore himself admits that he could write English and filled in a Bill of Exchange (Exhibit Z) in English and Chinese; and fourthly, to suppose that the Bank got the compradore to sign these letters without his properly understanding them is practically to impute fraud to the Bank, an imputation which is not raised on the pleadings. Again, it was contended that the compradore considered himself released from liability with reference to the Kwong Fuk and Wing Tung Yan Banks in consequence of what happened at the interview between Kan Sing Toi and Mr. Darby on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1892; this, however, is contrary to the evidence, as it is clear from the compradore's own statements that he collected moneys from the Kwong Fuk and Wing Tung Yan Banks, in both of which Banks Kan Sing Toi was largely interested, after March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1892, so that his statement that he collected no moneys from those Banks after March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1892, as he considered the matter settled, is distinctly untrue. In fact, it is clear from Mr. Darby's evidence that the compradore and his surety all along considered themselves liable; indeed, if you are to believe Mr. Darby, the surety (Cheong Kai) on more than one occasion asked him (Mr. Darby) not to press for a settlement in the hopes that there might be some margin in Kan Sing Toi's security. I therefore think that the security taken was additional and not substituted, and I must say that the impression left on my mind is that the whole defence is only an ingenious afterthought. Having thus expressed my opinion generally on the question I will now proceed to deal with the points raised more in detail. The first point taken was that the arrangement between Kan Sing Toi and Mr. Darby on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1892, was in fact a giving of time, but there is no evidence in support of this view except possibly the postscript to the letter of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1892 (Exhibit Ab), written by the compradore to the Bank and any inference of the kind is, I think, contradicted by the letters of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1892, and June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1892, (Exhibits H1 and H2). It was then contended that the surety was discharged by taking substituted security, i.e., that Kan Sing Toi was substituted on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1892, for the compradore so far as the Kwong Fuk and Wing Tung Yan Banks were concerned, but as I have shewn before, this is contrary to the evidence, as it is clear that the compradore collected moneys from those Banks after that date. It was not of course argued that the mere taking of additional security would discharge the surety, but it was argued that after additional security had been taken the relinquishing of such additional security would do so (*Pledge v. Buss*, Johnson's Rep. at p. 668. *Polak v. Everett* L. R. 1 Q. B. D. at p. 676, and *Forbes v. Jackson* L. R. 19 Ch. D. at p. 620). This point was not taken at the original hearing; indeed if the answer and its various amendments is referred to it will be seen that the defence waived backwards and forwards between substituted and additional security. It was sought to apply the principles



laid down in those cases to the present one on the following grounds. Mr. Darby in his evidence states: "The item \$97,222.23 was contained in the suspense account of Kan Sing Toi in the books of the old Bank down to June 30th, 1894. On that date that item \$97,222.23 was credited to suspense account Kan Sing Toi. In that way the original entry was reversed. I think the reason for the reversal was that our London office did not understand it." It was argued that this was a relinquishing of an after acquired security and so in accordance with the above cases it operated as a discharge of the surety. I am of opinion, however, that it was a mere book entry which was never communicated to Kan Sing Toi and which does not release the surety. The Bank still retained the letter of hypothecation. (Exhibit J.) Counsel for the appellants then contended that in any case interest, costs of telegrams, &c., ought not to be allowed on the ground that the surety was not liable under the bond which provides for losses.

However, I consider that the surety was liable for everything that the compradore was liable for in connection with these transactions and it was not contended that the compradore was not liable for interest, &c. (Ackermann and others v. Ehrensperger 16 M and W 99).

It was further contended that the property at Saigon and a promissory note for £15,000 were taken over by the Bank as cash, but believing, as I have already said, that the compradore quite understood the meaning of all the letters which passed between him and the Bank, I am of opinion this view is erroneous and that the Bank took them over for what they would fetch. I think I have dealt with the objections taken to the judgment appealed against and for the reasons above given I am of opinion that the appeal should be dismissed with costs.

8th September.

#### IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

RE WONG IU HING, EX PARTE THE DEBTOR.

The debtor applied for his discharge.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Bowley), appeared for the debtor; Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Ewens) for the trustee; Mr. Bruce Shepherd (Official Receiver) appeared in person.

Mr. Francis said when the case was last before the Court he made an application on behalf of the debtor that the report of the trustee in bankruptcy should be taken off the file as it was a document which had no legal authority and no legal existence. His Lordship also suggested whether or not the grounds or reasons on which the motion was made should or should not appear on the motion paper.

His Lordship said he had considered that matter and would not press it further.

Mr. Francis, in regard to the trustee's report, said the Bankruptcy Ordinance did not authorize or direct such a document; only the Official Receiver could make a report. Counsel therefore asked that the trustee's report should be taken off the file.

Mr. Robinson admitted there was no authority for such a report in the Bankruptcy Ordinance, but contended that the report dealt not with the conduct of the bankrupt but with accounts.

His Lordship referred counsel to the two last paragraphs of the report dealing with the conduct of the debtor.

Mr. Robinson said he would not press the point further and intimated that he would place evidence before the Court.

His Lordship said there was no authority for the filing of the report by the trustee and the Court would therefore remove the report from the file.

The question of procedure was then raised and after some argument his Lordship said it would be better if the trustee made an affidavit and gave it to the Official Receiver, who could, after taking evidence on affidavit, amend his report and make his findings upon the evidence, and also state any matters which he declined to receive as evidence. If neces-

sary the trustee would be asked to attend in Chambers for cross examination.

The further hearing of the motion was thereupon adjourned *sine die*.

9th September.

#### IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE-JUDGE.)

STOLTERFOHT AND HAGEN V. HIM SHUN LOONG.

Plaintiffs claimed \$1,000 damages from the defendants for refusing to take delivery of and pay for certain quantities of matches.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Bowley) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. Looker) for defendants.

Mr. Francis said the claim was made because the defendant refused to take delivery of and pay for certain quantities of matches which were sold to them under two contracts in March of last year. Pleadings were ordered in the case. The plaintiffs' petition showed that they were merchants in the colony. The defendants were compradores carrying on business at 12, Bonham Strand West. On the 15th March, 1896, defendants ordered from the plaintiffs, and plaintiffs agreed to obtain, 400 cases of matches with certain marks, such matches to arrive in June, July, August, or September, 1896. Defendants agreed to take delivery of such matches as should arrive within those four months and to pay at the rate of \$24.50 per case. On the 17th March, 1896, defendants ordered from the plaintiffs 200 cases of another kind of matches and defendants agreed to take delivery of such parcels. The 400 cases arrived within the period of four months and defendants took delivery of 150 cases and paid for them. Of the 200 cases 165 arrived in August and September and defendants took delivery and paid for 50 cases. Afterwards, in consideration of \$1,000, plaintiffs agreed to extend the time for 265 cases until March, 1897, and defendants agreed to take delivery of them and pay for them on or before the 31st March, 1897. They had, however, failed to take delivery of those cases, and plaintiffs had thereby incurred a loss of \$1,291.25. The defendants, in their answer, said they ceased to carry on business in Bonham Strand at the beginning of the present Chinese year. They denied having ordered any matches from the plaintiff under contract at any time.

Evidence having been called, Mr. Slade contended that there had been no contract between the parties and submitted certain points of law for the consideration of his Lordship.

His Lordship reserved judgment.

#### THE DEFENCES OF HONGKONG.

At the present moment, when the German Emperor and his advisers are straining every effort in the avowed endeavour to bring about an alliance of three or more Great Powers for the express purpose of crushing Great Britain, it is well that Hongkong, our furthest coaling station, naval dockyard, commercial depot, and military base should be rendered capable of resisting, at least for a time, attack in force by two or more allied powers.

It is useless for us to trust to luck, or to the hope that the weak points of Hongkong, from a naval and military point of view, are going to escape the secret and searching technical investigation of the possibilities of a successful attack on the colony by Powers inimical to Great Britain; further, it is useless to suppose that we can correctly gauge the combination of Powers which may be engaged in an attempt to cast down the present "Mistress of the Sea," whose wealth and independence is the cause of so much envy on their part. It will be well to take to heart the very old saying of the Jewish King, Solomon, viz.:—"Who can stand against envy?" Envy hesitates at no base or underhand measure to attain its end, the complete ruin of its hated rival, and there are not wanting signs that more than one Great Power, but one especially, seeks the ruin of Great Britain, who stands in the way, or is thought to stand in the way, of that Power's commercial and political aggrandisement.

Now granted that the above points are correct, it will next be well to remember that, Hongkong being at such a great distance from any point from which an increase of the garrison could quickly be effected, it is most essential that the permanent garrison should be sufficient for any emergency which may arise, and, likewise, the fact that should the colony be unable to hold its own, without the aid of the fleet in these waters, that fleet would be rendered useless for its especial purpose—the driving of the enemy's cruisers off the seas and keeping open communications with other naval bases, coaling-stations, and harbours of refuge for merchant vessels.

We will now look to the weak points in the defence of Hongkong, which are mainly an insufficient garrison, an insufficient water-supply and one easily cut off by the enemy (being open to attack from the sea and capable of being run off into the sea by the destruction of the dams which retain the water in the reservoirs), insufficient number of torpedo boats and torpedo destroyers to render the adjacent waters and anchorages unsafe to the enemy's ships in the absence of our own fleet, and, finally and principally, the non-possession and non-fortification of the Kowloon Hills, so that the enemy's ships may not safely lie in Tolo Harbour (an inlet in Mifs Bay) and land troops there.

Now I propose here only to briefly treat of the last danger to the colony. The reader will readily grasp the fact that no sane commander is going to run his war-vessels and troop-ships up against the forts guarding the Lyeemoon Pass, or those commanding the western entrance of the harbour, but will either land his troops on the south side of the island, under the cover of his ship's guns, where the forts protecting the harbour cannot touch him, or he will occupy either Mifs Bay or Deep Bay, and make one of those points the base of his operations. Tolo Harbour, in Mifs Bay, offers special facilities for these operations, for, not only can the heaviest of his ships approach within about three miles of British Kowloon, the while being well sheltered by the hills from any possible fire from the harbour forts, but the narrowness of the entrance to Tolo Harbour lends itself to the protection of his ships when once in from torpedo-boat attack by the laying down of his own torpedoes to keep the British torpedo-boats out. In Tolo Harbour his troops may be safely disembarked and will there find an ample supply of water and good camping ground till further operations are carried on. The troops once landed, the next thing would be the occupation of the summits of the Kowloon Hills, under cover of the ship's guns; should a portion of the small garrison of Hongkong have been previously sent to occupy the crests of these hills to resist the enemy's advance, they would hardly be able to hold them in face of the fire from the enemy's ships and the strong force of troops which the enemy would concentrate upon them. The Kowloon Hills in the possession of the foe, it would only be a matter of a short time before the siege-guns, which it is to be presumed he would be supplied with, were placed in position and the bombardment of the town and harbour commenced; probably the forts at Kowloon would first fall into the hands of the enemy, operating from the commanding field he would then be occupying, and the guns of those forts would be turned on the island.

With the crests of the Kowloon Hills fortified no enemy's ships could occupy Tolo Harbour and the possession of the Kowloon Hills would, on their southern slopes, provide ample sites for reservoirs, where the water supply of the colony would not be at the mercy of an enemy.

About eighteen months ago "Old Naval Reserve Man" rightly pointed out the advisability of having at least two torpedo-destroyers attached to the China station for the defence of Hongkong and Singapore. Within six months of that time two destroyers were despatched from home to this station being detained temporarily, in the Mediterranean in connection with Cretan and Grecian troubles. Recently two destroyers have been added to the effective strength of the North Pacific and two to the North Atlantic Squadrons. Two more might well be sent to the China Station, one to remain at Hongkong and one at Singapore. A few more



torpedo-boats would also be useful in harassing the enemy and preventing him hanging about neighbouring waters and harbours, out of reach of the guns of the harbour-forts.

WIDE-AWAKE.

### A FEW QUESTIONS.

Where were the two unofficial members of the Executive Council when the policy adopted by the Government with respect to the bribery scandal was decided upon?

Did it occur to any one that the mental strain involved in the arduous duty thrown upon Mr. May might be more than that gentleman could reasonably be asked to bear?

Did not the Tschbourne case kill a judge?

Did not the Maybrick case overthrow the mind of another judge?

Did not Judge Mowatt require a period of complete rest to recover tone after the Carew case?

Has not the Bennert case pretty well prostrated all engaged in it?

Would not Mr. May have enough to do to attend to the ordinary routine of the police work, without having thrown on him the duty of conducting an investigation like that recently held?

Is it possible that one man can adequately discharge the duties of Captain Superintendent of Police and Superintendent of the Gaol?

It is right that the catcher of the thief should be the keeper of the thief?

Is not the combining of a plurality of offices in one individual attended by greater evils than can be compensated for by the economy effected?

Was the gaol the proper place to hold the recent inquiry?

Can the Colonial Secretary give proper attention to the work of his office when the whole of his mornings are spent at the Registrar-General's office?

Might not Mr. Lockhart have been able to give the Governor better advice in connection with the recent trouble if he had had more time to give the matter consideration?

What had the Attorney-General to say in the business?

Why was Mr. Francis retained for the Crown in the Witchell case?

Was the case too much for the Attorney-General?

Does it not seem that the verdict of a Hong-kong jury depends more upon which side Mr. Francis is on than upon the merits of the case?

Is it a fact that the verdict against Witchell was given on the strength of Cheng On's knowledge of an anonymous letter and the assumption that such knowledge must have come to him improperly through Witchell?

Is it not possible that Cheng On might have known of the existence of the letter by reason of his having been himself the writer of it, or having been in the confidence of the writer?

Do the objects and reasons of the new Fire Brigade Bill justify the passage of such a measure?

Is it true that previous Superintendents and Acting Superintendents of the Brigade have never experienced any difficulty in maintaining discipline without the powers of punishment now claimed for Mr. May?

Is not unduly harsh discipline calculated to impair the morale of the Brigade?

When may the report of the Insanitary Dwellings Commission be expected?

Does the Governor hope to bike along the Jubilee Road before he leaves us?

It is understood in (Germany the *Singapore Free Press* hears privately) that a young naval officer's suicide is connected with the recent slight accident at Odde, Norway, on board the Imperial yacht *Hohenzollern* to the Emperor's eye. A loose end of rope swinging from the rigging came against the Emperor's face, and the eye was contused and blackened, but no real harm has accrued. Anyhow young Lieut. Von Hanke, who is believed to have considered himself responsible in some way, went ashore with his bicycle, ostensibly for a run on a track near the cliffs, and plunged, mounted on his machine, from the precipice into the sea. "His father is the Chief of the War Cabinet, and his death is a great blow in high quarters."

### A FEW MORE QUESTIONS.

Is it a fact that Sam In, the gambling house keeper who was sent to gaol for nine months with hard labour, has for some time been engaged in very light labour?

Did the Surgeon of the gaol order this change in the punishment? If not, has the Superintendent himself the power to change the labour?

Were the characters "tai tau, \$10" in the celebrated book supposed to represent Inspector Baker?

Do they mean principal or chief head as well as great or large head?

Is it not rather far-fetched to suppose that Baker would be paid \$10 a day if Stanton was only paid \$5 and Quincey \$3?

Is it possible that "tai tau" really means Mr. May himself?

If so, is it not absurd to suppose that the book is reliable?

Has there not been considerable dissatisfaction amongst members of the Police Force owing to certain rules recently enforced?

Have the men got adequate means for drying their clothing?

Are they allowed to hang up their clothing on pegs in the barracks?

### THE NEW BALMORAL G. L. MINING CO., LIMITED.

Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, the General Managers, have received the following report from the Mining Manager by the *Guthrie*:-

NEW BALMORAL G. L. M. CO., LIMITED.

Mount Macdonald, 20th August, 1897.

Queen Mine.—The contractors expect to complete their 100 feet of sinking the main shaft in about three weeks from date. There is nothing fresh to report here this week.

Balmoral Mine.—We are still driving the tunnel on G.L. 6 and satisfactory progress is being made with it. The tributors on G.L. 5 have stopped work where they obtained the crushing from, but expect to start again shortly on another portion of the lease.

### OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

We are informed by Messrs. John D. Humphreys and Son, the General Managers of the Olivers Freehold Mines, Limited, that they have received the following telegram:-

"The width of the reef is 7 feet the development in the working has been most encouraging the new machinery will be up by the 12th of October."

This telegram has reference to the Eureka Mine at the 240 feet level, where, according to a telegram received on the 6th inst., a fine body of ore at the bottom of the shaft had been opened up showing visible gold throughout.

The following report from the Mining Manager was received by the *Guthrie*:-

OLIVERS FREEHOLD MINES, LIMITED.

Mount Macdonald, 20th August, 1897.

Eureka Mine.—Main shaft.—We are sinking on the face of the reef, but have not yet broken into it, as owing to its being very solid, it is necessary to uncover a few feet of it first, which will be done in a few days. There is a nice dig, that is, a vein of soft flucum, between the country rock and the reef; this, as you are aware, is of great advantage when driving along or stoping the reef out; and judging from the surroundings there is every reason to expect that when we break into it, we will find a solid, well defined, and large reef of a payable character. At the 200 ft. level work is confined to driving North and South on the reef, which continues the same as in last week's report.

At the 150 ft. level we are also still driving North and South on the reef. In the North end it is 2½ ft. in width, and 4 ft. in the South, with good gold showing in both places. We have four men stoping above this level, 30 ft. above the drive. The reef is over two feet and during the week has been showing nice gold. The air and mullock shaft is down 100 ft., the reef 1½ ft. wide showing good gold. Every part of the mine is in first class order.

Battery.—The erection of the small engine for driving the pans has been completed with

the exception of a few small connections, which will be completed in a day or two. We have made some alterations to the battery shed, enlarging it, &c. The old battery is completely done, and to keep it going longer would be to work at a loss. A clean-up as usual will take place to-morrow (Saturday) and on Monday we will start the work of pulling out the old battery with the foundation logs, and getting in the foundation for the new battery. The work to complete will be pushed on with all speed. Owing to not being able to get more stone through at the battery, we had to shorten hands at the mine on the 14th inst., 11 being put off temporarily; and possibly we may have to shorten again before the battery is completed; as we have over 100 tons of stone at grass and everything ready below to break an immense quantity.

Dam Site.—A site for a new dam has been selected midway between the present dam and the Northern boundary of the Freehold. Quantities have been worked out, plans drawn, and tenders called for its construction. These will be opened to-morrow and the work carried out at once so as to be ready for the spring rains.

### THE GYMKHANA.

The following is the programme of the fourth Gymkhana meeting, to be held on the Happy Valley and race course on Saturday, 25th September:-

ONE MILE HANDICAP; first prize, presented; second, 15 dollars; entrance, \$1; but if left in after 2 p.m. on 21st instant, \$3 extra.

A DOG RACE; about 120 yards; first prize, \$15; second, \$10; third, \$5; open to all; entrance free on course.

A RACE OVER A FEW OBSTACLES; to be selected by the stewards; for ponies that have never started in a race or gymkhana flat race, polo pony events excepted; no saddles, whips or spurs allowed; two prizes. Entrance, \$2.00.

TENT PEGGING; first prize, a cup presented by Major-General Wilson Black, C.B.; second prize, three-fourths of entrance fees. Entrance, \$3.00.

THE LADIES' NOMINATION; the rider will pass the lady at full speed; the lady will throw a polo ball at him, which he should catch and deposit in a bucket further on; points for the catch, drop, and pace will be awarded; entrance, \$2.00.

THE DISTANCE HANDICAP; the limit horse to start at Round Course Post; first prize, presented; second, \$15.00; entrance, \$1.00; but if left in after 2 p.m. on 21st instant, \$3.00 extra; the weight of rider to be given with entry for information of the handicappers.

### CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

### THE POLICE PROCEEDINGS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I congratulate you upon the excellent spirit in which you are fighting the battle of liberty and fair play in this little corner of the world: and I congratulate the colony upon having an editor who is animated by an English love of liberty, and capable of ably expressing his opinions.

Sir, the spirit of your articles is excellent in my humble opinion because while you vigorously attack an un-English system and clearly state the unalterable facts of average human nature you studiously avoid personalities, impute no unworthy motives, and do justice to executive officials. Surely few Englishmen will hesitate to maintain your statement that a prosecutor-judge is a form of trial that ought not to be, or doubt your conclusion that such a system will not last long—nor will it if you continue as you have begun to discharge worthily the duties that Englishmen expect from their Press, namely, as you express it, the keeping of "a critical eye on the working of the machinery on which the colony's welfare depends and a jealous regard for the justice of its administration." In ninety-nine out of a hundred of the cases in which the



Captain Superintendent acts judicially no doubt, he sits to try some report of neglect of duty or breach of discipline preferred by some Inspector or other third part against some constable, in dealing with which, not being the accuser himself, he is in the indifferent position of any other magistrate. But if the law has constituted a prosecutor-judge tribunal, let it be undone. Such a thing may be good enough for Russians or Spaniards or Japanese and perhaps some other great nations, but not for Englishmen nor for Americans. Keep a constant eye on the legislature and you will often do a public service. The tendency here is clearly and constantly to derogate from English standards, so that an Englishman finds himself under a code which is only excusable as applied to Orientals unaccustomed to freedom. It speaks well for our English officials that they so seldom abuse weapons which ought not to be in their grasp at all.

In your present crusade for English justice and English methods you will find the true expression of English feeling if you turn to the Colonial Office Rules, Edition of 1894, Regulations 83 to 91 and 96 (d). And, Sir, have you ever considered closely the question whether the local law Ordinance 14 of 1887 does in fact oust the Colonial Regulations?

RUNNYMEDE.

Hongkong, 10th September, 1897.

#### THE STATE OF THE ROADS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—Referring to the letter signed by "A Ratepayer" in the *Daily Press* of yesterday's issue with regard to the disgraceful state of the upper part of Elgin Street, I would esteem it a favour if you will allow me a small space in your valuable columns to call the attention of the P.W.D. to the disgraceful condition of Bonham Road, a road much more important than the upper part of Elgin Street. However, they both deserve due consideration and ought to be attended to and repaired without delay. These roads have been in their present state for over a month and yet they do not seem to attract the attention of the P.W.D.

Bonham Road is a continuation of the Caine Road westward and leads to Pokfulam and Aberdeen, and is a very popular road for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians, who will no doubt give me their best support in this matter. This road, like Kennedy and Bowen Roads, is mostly enjoyed by the European community of the colony for their open air exercise. I do not suppose the proposed Jubilee Road round the island has caused the P.W.D. to disregard the best existing roads of the colony and overlook their reparation. I think the P.W.D. ought to perform its duties properly without giving the public a chance to rub caustic in now and then, which doubtless does them a deal of good. I enclose my card and thanking for the insertion of this.—I am, yours faithfully,

ANOTHER RATEPAYER.

Hongkong, 9th September, 1897.

#### MR. JOHN ANDREW AND THE HONGKONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

A SHANGHAI JOURNAL GIRDS AT THE CHAMBER.

Chambers of commerce like most other human institutions have not yet attained to perfection, and certainly, according to Mr. John Andrew's showing, in the *Hongkong Daily Press*, that of Hongkong is yet a long way off the goal. Mr. Andrew accuses the Chamber of half heartedness in the first place and secondly, when Mr. Andrew himself alone and unassisted succeeded in exposing the deliberate breaches of treaty stipulations of which the provincial government of the Liangkiang had been guilty, the Chamber not only ignored his exertions in the matter, but when through Mr. Andrew's representations the British Government had at last taken the subject up the Chamber quickly appropriated to itself the whole credit of the transaction and did not even mention Mr. Andrew's name. We might indeed go further the Mr. Andrew and affirm that from beginning to end the Hongkong Chamber has never done a stroke of

useful work. It is all very well in its way to follow in the crowd and heap cheap abuse on the Chinese Government, interspersed with general statements of the neglect of treaty right stipulations in the two Kwan provinces. What that neglect amounted to, and how the exclusion of British goods from the large and fertile delta of the three Canton rivers was effected, we for years looked in vain to the Hongkong Chamber to discover. The members of that Chamber have in fact even more than elsewhere in China been in the hands of their compradores, and the compradores of Hongkong, if not the chief agents in the effectual closing of the Chu-kiang, have certainly actively assisted the local officials. That under the circumstances Mr. Andrew's plucky enterprise should have excited the hostility of the entire compradorate is but natural, and equally natural it is that the Chamber, under the influence of this powerful clique, should have used its influence to preserve the *status quo*. There is reform needed in the Colony in other directions than the Police.—*Shanghai Daily Press*.

#### MR. DETRING AND THE TSUNGLI YAMEN.

TRANSLATION OF PETITIONS PRESENTED TO THE PRINCE, GRAND SECRETARIES AND MINISTERS OF THE TSUNGLI YAMEN BY G. DETRING:—

In the first month I presented a petition, inviting the establishment of a Bureau of Mines by which the present difficulties may be alleviated. In advocating this matter there is no question of seeking for any personal advantage. China has now had intercourse with foreign nations for some 50 years. In the West, military, mercantile, agricultural and industrial questions, and handicrafts are fostered, for they are considered important to the prosperity of a country and its people. As regards China, in these respects, they are entirely neglected. There is, however, one exception and that is the establishment of the Foreign Maritime Customs. Foreign officials have charge of it and at each port there are branches of the Customs for the collection of the duties on imports and exports, all conducted in the Western manner, without a single blemish, and yearly improving. These constitute a large part of the revenue of the State, and certainly not less than the land tax of the twenty-one provinces. The result of the employment of foreign officials is therefore evident. Mines are very numerous in China, they are richer and more plentiful than in the West. They have been neglected for several thousands of years and have never been opened. At present, although there is little mining going on, it is not that the people in the different provinces have no good systems, it is owing to defects and blemishes. After the late war, the country had to borrow money to pay the war indemnity and a great many plans were devised to meet this object, such as the construction of railways and the like. Without more than a thousand million taels these things cannot be carried out. The duties cannot be increased. To borrow money is not easy. The products of the mines are the advantages which Heaven sends; why not then think of a good method by which to reap these advantages? If such a large sum is needed, where is it to come from? If any danger to the empire should suddenly arise, there will be nothing to do but to await death, or allow others to encroach upon the country. Is this not to lose the advantages of one's land? If you wait till the advantages and the land are lost, and become conscious of the fact, it will then be too late.

I have been in the receipt of Customs' pay for many years. I have an idea which I offer you—a plan which will bring with it advantages and no harm. I have already sent you a petition on this matter, setting it forth. I have heard from another source that you have seen it and have handed it to the Board of Revenue for consideration. That Board has the administration of the country's finances. The present is a time of great difficulty for this Board to pay out monies. Now suddenly there appears an individual who proposes a plan which, if adopted, must be adopted at once. If the measure proposed be thought inconvenient and impossible

the proposer should be told at once that his plan is not feasible. It is already three months and you have not said anything. Perhaps you look upon me as *une quantité négligeable* and the subject of the proposal not worth consideration. I am a Westerner of not very high standing, my rank is only a Commissioner of Customs; but I have been a resident in China for over 30 years, and I have been at all the ports, and have had dealings in commercial matters both with Chinese and foreigners, and wherever I have been I have obtained a good reputation. I have drawn the country's pay and have done the country's work, which was my duty. At Chefoo I assisted at the making of the treaty, and I transacted another matter for China with regard to a certain foreign country. I was sent on a mission to settle certain religious matters which had been in suspense for many years, and which I carried through successfully, as well as the the Kuangchow air. I was the first one sent to Japan. These acts were all done in obedience to Imperial Edicts. When these were completed, the Chinese government gave me such recognition that I was grateful and exerted myself for the good of the country; I used my strength and mind, but nevertheless, at the end I did not obtain the yellow jacket. I received as a favour from the Emperor the decoration of the Double Dragon of the 2nd class and the premier button, and on this account I exerted my best powers in the interest of the country to a still greater extent. At the end of last year I returned to China to offer for the construction of railways and to negotiate loans. China, however, was in a great hurry. My object was to lay a solid foundation for China; but upon reaching Shanghai I heard that some-one else was going to construct the railways, on lines totally different from my ideas, and I could not, therefore, offer my plans. I gave Li Chung-tang two letters treating upon the difficulty of borrowing foreign money and recommended a certain party who could manage a loan. I have finished all I have to say on these matters; but in the matter of financing the loan, if the right person is not appointed, it will be like getting a wolf to assist you to bring home a sheep. You may provide everything tempting to induce the sheep to come, but it will not come. Chinese and foreigners alike all agree in denouncing a certain individual. He thinks he can secure the assistance of the high officials; he assumes much responsibility and speaks high-sounding words to the throne; his language is at entire variance with his acts; he is simply deceiving the Emperor, while the danger of injury is concealed. What I have now said I declare to be the truth.

Formerly Russia was full of corruptions and errors. The great Peter visited all countries; on returning he borrowed foreign appliances to strengthen his country. The people he selected to assist him, if they were not from England or the United States they were Germans or French. He used their knowledge to strengthen his country. That country has now become large and powerful—there is no country to be compared with it. China has reaped advantage from the Customs and there have been great results, and my plan as to mines is that they should be managed like the foreign Customs. In my opinion China is in the position of one in the act of drowning. I wish to save her and establish the dignity of the country and remedy all its faults. I am returning very shortly to my own country. I dare not add more words. I am waiting to see China turning from the bad to the good. This is my sincere wish and I am afraid of having said so much.

Having been in China for many years I know that Manchuria and Chihli are exceedingly rich and superior in minerals to other parts of the country. Now that China is labouring under great difficulties, something must be done to remedy the state of affairs. If you wish China to become wealthy rapidly there is nothing superior to the opening of mines. Hence, at my own expense I have brought out to China with me a distinguished German mining engineer, to investigate the regions around Shan-hai-kuan. He reports that to open mines and develop them, they must be in the proximity of coal mines—the coal is necessary to melt the iron—and there must also be speedy mode of conveyance so that much money need not be spent on initial expenses. This is the English



method. He examined the ores of various places he saw and he found them not at all inferior to those of Germany. Those which contained coal were found to be very convenient of situation, and if opened according to the Western method the advantages would be great and speedy. Already have I written on these matters to the Yamen Ministers and they must be acquainted with them.

The idea of opening mines is to cause wealth to circulate. If you do not well calculate how these enterprises should be carried out the money will be spent in vain; while you wish for advantages, you obtain nothing but injury. Formerly, in erecting the ironworks in Hupeh, H.E. Chang Chih-tung, did not calculate the expense of smelting the iron when the works were opened. To smelt the iron requires coal, but the coal was very distant, the expenses were several *wans* (several tens of thousands of taels) which, with the cost of apparatus and including all expenses, was about the same as buying English iron. This undertaking is like "riding the tiger." There is danger both in keeping one's seat on the animal as well as in dismounting. There seemed to be no good methods until there appeared on the scene Shêng Ching-chung, who has undertaken to manage the business, and who is becoming a substitute of another "in riding the tiger." Great honours and promotion have been bestowed upon him—he has been made an official of Metropolitan rank and *Tai hany*—Director of the Court of Sacrificial Ceremonies—and Director General of Railways. This is like opening the prison cage to invite people to come and occupy it; but neither Chinese nor foreigners will buy shares from him; both denounce him and no one has confidence in his conduct of affairs. He is riding the tiger and looking about in all directions without the least prospect of help; he entertains the idea of feeding the tiger by cutting up the people. Belgium is a small country with wealth, but it has very little trade with China and there is no great friendship between the two countries. How is it that it can suddenly lend China such a large sum of money? The French, really, are the masters in this business, and the Russians help them, and so Shêng has been able to arrange his loan with Belgium. This matter is now settled, but China's danger is ever present. For instance, the Russian railway is to communicate with Manchuria and French railways will connect with Lungchow. France has had her eye upon Hankow for many years. The North and South are very distant but they are opposite each other. Their object is to obtain the central portion of China. At present the money and name are Belgian, but really it is France and Russia who are assisting in its completion. These two countries now possess all the advantages of this plan and leave China only one chance. When the time arrives and they see China occupied elsewhere, then will be their opportunity. Among the ten thousand countries of the world there is not one which gives to a single person the supreme power. For example, one man now has the control of your steamship company, the telegraphs, cotton mills, ironworks and such like, with the control also of relations with foreign countries. There is great danger in giving all this into the hands of one man to manage. He will control China's trunk line, which will be like giving the tiger wings, i.e., he will be irresistible; whether there is injury or advantage in this the country will probably not recognise just at present. He knows that armed with such powers he is bound to win. What his heart wishes, that he accomplishes. Afterwards, if affairs should become unmanageable, or if the conditions should be changed, and if things turn out to be not agreeable to him, what is there to prevent him from letting loose the tiger to eat up the people? I do not know what virtues or what talents he possesses that the country should believe in him and use him to this extent. I am not a Westerner of high repute; my heart, however, is with China, and because I have been discussing the question of the mines, I naturally thought of these things. It is, of course, not my place thus to speak, but I felt constrained to do so. I pray therefore that you will excuse my presumption.—*N. C. Daily News.*

### THE ACCIDENTAL POISONING CASE AT SHANGHAI.

In the German Court at Shanghai on the 6th September, before Mr. A. Zimmermann, Vice-Consul, Count A. von Butler, Messrs. G. Lembke, F. Lemke, and G. Melchers, Assessors, Mr. Voelkel, of Messrs Voelkel and Schroeder (Pharmacie de l'Union), who had by some mistake given strychnine instead of santonine to Mr. J. Chambers' child, which mistake proved fatal, was charged under Article XXII of 15th May, 1871. The charge having been read, Mr. Voelkel acknowledged having made up the prescription, and said he could not account for the mistake. Evidence was then given, the witnesses being Mr. Chambers, the father; his house boy who took the prescription from Dr. Zedelius; the house coolie who obtained the medicine from Mr. Voelkel; Dr. Scholwein, the analytical chemist; and Dr. Zedelius, who attended the child. The Court read the following report by Mr. Frank Brown, Government Analyst, Hongkong, on the contents of the two bottles sent to him for analysis, viz., bottles marked A, the powder originally made up by Mr. Voelkel and analysed by Dr. Scholwein; and bottle marked B containing a powder subsequently made up by Mr. Voelkel:—"Results show conclusively that strychnine nitrate is present in the small bottle marked A to the extent of one part of strychnine nitrate to nine parts of sugar of milk. Examination of contents of large bottle marked B:—The powder did not dissolve completely in water; the soluble portion had a sweet taste; when tested by a solution of potassium periodide and by Meyers Re-agent no alkaloid was indicated; the powder reduced Fehling's solution, showing the presence of sugar of milk; the insoluble portion of the powder answered to the test for santonine; the santonine was found to be present to the extent of one part of santonine to nine parts of sugar of milk." Mr. Voelkel was asked whether he wished to make any statement, to which he replied that the evidence was quite conclusive, but he could not imagine how he gave strychnine for santonine. The Court sentenced him to four weeks' imprisonment.

### THE ENGINEERS' STRIKE AT SINGAPORE.

Singapore, 6th August.

The Engineers' strike may now be said to be practically at an end. Nine engineers arrived from Calcutta by the steamship *Zweena* yesterday, but we are informed that an arrangement has been come to with the Engineers' Association by which the Association are to send back such as do not wish to remain here. It was understood that an attempt was to be made to replace Mr. Nicholson, the chief, and Mr. Taylor, the second engineer, on board the S. S. S. Co.'s steamer *Malacca*, but the Association were determined to stand by their members, and this morning they blocked three of Messrs. Wee Bin's boats, the *Teresa*, *Batavier* and the *McAlister*. We understand that this point has also been conceded, and that all the ships leaving to-day are signing on engineers at the increased rates of pay.—*Free Press.*

### THE ELUSIVE DOLLAR.

"The Moralist" writes in the *Straits Times*:—"The dollar is a cheerful coin and no mistake! Owing to the withdrawal of several millions of the Japanese variety of the dollar, the Banks say they have no money, and, if they have no cash, who can reasonably be expected to have any? In the meantime, the extreme variety of the dollar maintains the rate of exchange at the noble sum of 1/10, which is, it appears, more than the thing is worth. Directly any adequate supply of dollars comes to hand, their value will drop, and they will hardly be worth having. In the meantime, as there are none of them to be had, their value does not particularly matter to those who can't get them. It is a right merry situation! Oh! for the land of the £. s. d. the humble shilling is now actually worth 4½d., but, as twenty of them still go to a "thick un," it does not particularly matter to the British public as long as they stay at home

and don't go wandering about in foreign parts. This is a popular and practical exposition of the value of a gold standard worth quite as much as more long-winded effusions to be seen elsewhere. In the meantime, the price of things is up! The Moralist, gazing with gloomy eye over the multitudinous notices to this effect to be seen in the advertising columns of this journal, discovers that the following are the principal commodities of which the values have become suddenly appreciated:

1. Gas.
2. Photographs.
3. Everything else.

Some people have got as much of the first two commodities as they require, and others can do without them. It's the third item which hits the general public, and a very nasty little blow it is.

"The inmates of one of our leading hotels were more surprised than gratified to find large printed cards lying about on the tables, yesterday evening, informing them that the price of 'whiskies and sodas and all liquors' would be increased. This notification looks as if it had been drafted by the Attorney-General. Nothing can be more comprehensive than the statement concerning what liquors are to be affected by this new enactment, while there is a certain vagueness as to the extent of the extra charge to be levied, which reminds me very forcibly of certain ordinances and other legislative machinery with which we are all familiar. In the meantime, the inhabitants of the *Hotel d'Afrique* are in some doubt as to what they may have to pay for their refreshments. If the spirited proprietors are just going to charge 'what they damwell please,' the whisky and soda of daily life may stand them in anything from a dollar upwards, a thing which spells ruin. But it is pleasant to observe that these excellent people are showing a tendency to order large glasses of fair cold water for their dinner, a course highly to be commended.

It is rumoured that, consequent on the fall in exchange and so, His Ex—ll—cy is going to put up the price of any site that may be selected for the New Town Hall.

This fall of the dollar, however, is a very serious matter, especially as it is a fall that is going to continue. In the long run perhaps, it does not matter very much. Prices, salaries, and charges will re-adjust themselves, if taken over a sufficiently long period of years. But that is poor consolation to the man whose income is not sufficient to carry him on for the time being, nor is it certain that prices and wages will re-adjust themselves with sufficient quickness to be of much use to such a man. Much sympathy as I have with the salaried servant, I have equally great sympathy with the employer who finds not merely that the dollars he earns by way of profit are less valuable dollars, but also that he is earning a lesser number of dollars, and that the accumulated savings of past years are depreciating as quickly as his income.

Apart, however, from the fall of the dollar although incidentally aggravated by that fall, there is the general question of a revision of the style of living among the Europeans who are not rich. The scale of living for Europeans in the East is still based upon the old idea that every European has a large income. It is an exploded idea. The extension of industries has called into existence in the East, within the last twenty years, a vast crowd of Europeans who cannot have large incomes. Whether that is good or bad, I am not prepared to discuss. I take the fact as it is. For these Europeans, there must come a general alteration in the scale of living, with the alternative that, if that does not take place, these Europeans must leave the East and go home.

The Bangkok Tramway Co. seems to be a very flourishing concern. At the half yearly meeting held the other day the question was discussed whether the dividend should be 8½ per cent. for the half-year, as recommended in the report, or 6 per cent. The profits were sufficient to pay the higher amount, but most of the money had been spent in new machinery, new station, etc., so that it would be necessary to borrow in order to pay the dividend. The decision was in favour of 6 per cent.



## HONGKONG.

To-morrow the Mount Hustin Hotel closes its doors to the Hongkong residents and in future the building will recognize only the military force. Perhaps in time we shall find that the War authorities in England knew what they were about when they bought the property at a reasonable figure in order to convert it into barracks. The police scandal is far from being finished. The general feeling is that there should be a thorough and impartial inquiry into the whole subject with a view to the accused police officers having their case properly put before an unbiased tribunal. A question was asked on the subject at a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council which was held on Monday, but the Chairman ruled that the question should be put in the usual manner. Other matters of much interest were discussed at the meeting.

Three and a half lakhs of Mexican dollars arrived in the colony on 9th Sept. by the O. & O. steamer *Belgic* from San Francisco.

The appointment of Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz to be Assistant Registrar General and Deputy Registrar of Marriages is gazetted.

The stamp revenue last month amounted to \$22,017, being an increase of \$2,685 on the amount collected in the corresponding month of last year.

It is notified that the new stone pier at the end of Murray Road will be opened to traffic on the 16th inst. and that the old timber wharf will be closed from that date.

The appointment of Mr. J. W. Jones to be Acting Deputy Registrar and Accountant in the Supreme Court during the absence of Mr. F. A. Hazeland is gazetted.

In reference to the case of Police Sergeant Phelps it should be said that he left the Police Force on Saturday last on the completion of his term of fifteen years' service.

The American ship *Le Schepp*, which arrived here on 12th Sept from New York, reports that on the 27th July, whilst running in a heavy gale, three of the crew were washed overboard and drowned. The names of the unfortunate seamen are Mathew Olsen, John Seindstrons, and William Whannel.

Mr. W. Machell was looking over the verandah of his residence, Victoria View, Kowloon, on Wednesday, when he caught sight of a poor, decrepit old man who had to rely upon a long stick to aid him along and compensate in a measure for weakness caused by senile decay and, perhaps, shortness of food. Mr. Machell went downstairs to interrogate his indigent visitor. The poor old gentleman, however, suddenly and miraculously had restored to him all the vitality of his youth, for he ran away at a tremendous pace, his stick seemingly being an encumbrance to him. Mr. Machell bolted after him, but he had to run nearly a quarter of a mile before he overtook the helpless patriarch, who appeared to be quite fresh, while his captor was puffing for breath. The man who won the race charged the other with being a rogue and vagabond, and Mr. Wodehouse sentenced the rascal to fourteen days' imprisonment.

The news of the trouble that has fallen upon Inspector Quincey will no doubt have caused some feeling of regret amongst many persons who have at various periods visited the colony. When any globe-trotter of distinction arrived, a Duke, Earl, or Marquis, it was always Inspector Quincey who was told off to show him the sights of China-town, and when our military or naval friends made up parties to go to the native theatres the same officer's services were generally impressed as cicerone. By his courtesy and his sense of humour he added largely to the entertainment, and always commanded the kindly feelings of those whom he accompanied. In the course of his career he has received testimonials and letters of thanks from various celebrities, among them being H.R.H. Prince Henry of Prussia, the late General Grant, ex-President, United States of America, the late King Kalakaua, of the Hawaiian Islands, Lord Wicklow, Lord Cadogan, and various other well known public men. The late General Gordon was, as everyone knows, a great friend to Quincey, who has, in addition to three or four recommendations, many private letters and documents from the great soldier which are of great interest.

An interim dividend of 3 per cent. has been declared on the preference shares of the China Mutual Steam Navigation Co., Limited, for the six months ended 30th June last.

The appointment is gazetted of Dr. John Bucknill Fowler to be Deputy Health Officer of the Port for such time as he occupies the position of Assistant to Dr. G. P. Jordan, or until further notice.

The monetary loss to the police officers who have been dismissed does not seem to be generally appreciated. Dismissal carries with it the loss of pension. The senior officers were entitled to pensions of from £80 to £100 a year, the capitalised value of which would vary from \$10,000 to \$15,000, according to age, health, etc. That seems rather a stiff fine to impose on a man without open trial, especially a man who has passed the best of his working years and has little or no other provision for his old age.

On the 10th Sept. the Victoria Recreation Club met the West Yorkshire Regiment in a polo match, which was played at the Club. There was a very large attendance of spectators among whom was Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary. The game was an exceedingly good one, being particularly fast and exciting. In the first half the Regiment had the benefit of the tide and scored two goals to their opponents' one. In the second half each side scored once, the Regiment thus winning a finely fought game by three goals to two. Sergeant-Major Westcott officiated as referee.

The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 31st August, 1897, as certified by the Managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

| Banks.   | Average Amount. | Specie in Reserve. |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, ..... | \$2,538,310     | \$1,300,000        |
| Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, .....     | \$4,925,978     | \$2,500,000        |
| National Bank of China, Limited, .....               | \$ 353,347      | \$ 205,000         |
| Total...   | \$7,817,635     | \$4,005,000        |

*L'Avenir du Tonkin* sums up the police scandal in the following terms:—"The papers last received from Hongkong tell us that the contingent of police which represented the local forces during the Jubilee celebrations in London has returned to the colony. For those who read the journals of the neighbouring colony, who have, for more than a month, seen each number full of articles concerning the Hongkong police scandal, who learn that some dozen inspectors having 20, 24, and 27 years' services have been turned away like vulgar extortioners and sad sharpers—for these, the affair is not wanting in piquancy. The Queen who presides over the country of John Brown, the old lady Victoria, and "le charming Angleterre" ought to feel highly honoured to see themselves praised and flattered by these representatives of Ali Baba's band. Are all the public services composed of men of similar taste?"

In an article on seamen at Singapore in the *Straits Times* we find the following:—"Well, there's nothin' else to do in this place," says a burly salt. "No one cares wot becomes of us. 'Taint the same 'ere as in 'Ongkong. There, they looks after us. There's the chaplain and 'is wife, an' lots of ladies, an' gentlemen, too, who gets up things for us; entertainments, an' concerts, an' teas; an' meetins in the evenings. An' Mr. Goldsmith, 'e were always in an' out. First thing in the morning, 'e was there in the library, 'Come along to breakfast you fellers,' 'e'd say. That's wot 'e always called mornin' prayers. Orfen 'e tuk us out picnicing or bathing. An' at Church time, there was the ladies a-waiting to see us into Church. We used to try to dodge 'em sometimes, but 't weren't no use. An' we didn't mind, bless ye. They was real good to us, they was. But 'ere, with nothing to do, we goes out, and we drinks bad stuff, or does worse'n that, an' gets run in, or gets fit for 'orspital, 'were all our savins wot's left goes for fees. Then we gets shipped 'ome as destitute seamen; and we lands in London wi'out a 'apenny, an' got to tramp miles, if we wants to see 'ome agin."

The Royal Hongkong Yacht Club will, during the forthcoming season, hold its races on Sunday afternoons, the starting time being 1.30 p.m. instead of 11.15 p.m. as formerly.

Amongst the passengers who arrived by the *Belgic* from America on 9th Sept. were Mr. R. Wildman, who succeeds Colonel Hunt as United States Consul at Hongkong, and Mrs. Wildman.

Gambling is still carried on to a great extent in junks and launches chartered for the purpose, and also in the larger brothels of Taipingshan. Private Chinese clubs have ceased to admit strangers for the time being, but the establishments at Kowloon City are again in full swing.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that H.E. the Governor has been pleased to recognise, provisionally and pending the arrival of the Queen's exequatur, Mr. Rounseville Wildman as in charge of the U. S. Consulate. Mr. E. Hunt, the retiring Consul, and his family left by the P. M. steamer *China* on Saturday for America, carrying with them the best wishes of the entire community.

A feeble, toothless, and almost hairless old man was called as a witness in a Police Court case on 9th September. He could scarcely hobble into the witness box, and his form was so bent with age that while giving his evidence his shining bald head presented a bolder front to his Worship than his wizened face. The entire absence of teeth made it difficult for him to speak, and the "peng mo hu yin" part of the oath seemed, while he was uttering the words, to almost overthrow his balance. He was treated kindly and gently. He was asked a question about his wife and he imparted the interesting information that he was a blooming, blushing bridegroom only two months ago. "And what is the name of your wife?" sympathetically inquired his Worship. The question staggered the witness. He clutched the railing of the witness box and slowly turned round and seemed to implore the assistance of Acting Inspector Hall in helping him out of his difficulty. The rescue came not, and the old man was compelled to admit that he was not acquainted with the name of his better half. The Court, that is, the Magistrate, the clerks, the solicitors, the public, and even the reporters smiled; indeed they broadly grinned, and the poor old man was the only one who didn't see the joke. He ought to be some more closely acquainted with his new-fledged companion.

The *Spectator* of the 17th July says:—"A most interesting statement comes this week from Mexico. It is reported that Chinese inscriptions two thousand years old have been discovered in the State of Sonora, and have been deciphered by Chinese experts, who say that they indicate the arrival about that time of Chinese exploring parties. It is quite possible that the statement is a hoax, but it is also possible that it is strictly true. The evidence collected by Mr. E. P. Vining, and published in his exhaustive but tedious book 'An Inglorious Columbus' seems to demonstrate Chinese influence upon Mexican civilisation. Great is coincidence, but that six names of the signs of the Zodiac should in two countries be identical, though there never was any connection between them, is a coincidence which approaches the miraculous. So also is the fact that the civilisation of Peru is an exact reproduction of the theory of the Chinese organisation of a state. There must of course be much further inquiry yet, but if it can once be proved that Chinamen at an early period reached Spanish America, many of the apparently insoluble mysteries of American civilisation will at once be solved. The explanation, be it remembered, does not explain the early people of the Americas, but the form assumed by the higher developments of their aboriginal organisation." It is highly probable that Chinese craft drifted to America occasionally, but there could never have been anything like steady and premeditated intercourse between them. The hypothesis that the Aztecs (or rather the Toltecs) of Mexico originally derived their religion and civilisation from Egypt seems much more feasible than that they adopted them from a few Chinese mariners or castaways. The teocallies of Mexico may be an adaptation of the Egyptian pyramid, but they have no counterpart in China.



## MISCELLANEOUS.

The naval register of the British fleet took place at Hakodate on the 2nd September. The Admiral's Cup was won by the whaler of the *Alacrity*.

At Shanghai, about half-past seven on the morning of the 6th September, the Hwashing Cotton Mill, Yangtzeppoo, was found to be on fire, but the outbreak was promptly extinguished by the employees before much damage was done; and a few dollars will cover all losses, from Hakodate under date of the 31st of August, to the effect that the trial of the Chinese belonging to British men-of-war, arrested on a charge of gambling, has been concluded. Each of the accused has been sentenced to imprisonment for 15 days and ordered to pay a fine of yen 2.50.

There seems some prospect of the proposed refrigerator-sanatorium at Saigon becoming an accomplished fact. A decree has been signed by the President of the Republic approving the resolution of the Cochinchina Council guaranteeing to M. Graffia, the promoter, interest at five per cent. on a capital sum of 300,000 francs and the establishment of a sinking fund providing for the repayment of the capital in twenty-five years. The idea is to have an establishment in which the air will be kept cool by refrigeration, so that any one can secure what is equivalent to a change to a cool climate as easily as he can obtain a Turkish bath. In cases of some forms of illness this would be invaluable, and for purposes of pleasure it would also be highly appreciable. It remains to be seen to what extent the idea is practicable.

The native correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News*, writing from Nanchang, the provincial capital of Kiangsi, reports an instance of barbarity arising from a feeling of revenge, which happened on the 24th August a few miles outside the Changchiang gate of that city. It appeared that two small villages were at feud about an irrigation creek, and many fights had already occurred between the two clans with varying success on either side. On the day in question while five men of one village were working in their rice fields, some twenty men, from the other suddenly surrounded them and succeeded in beheading the five. Two of these, who had been leaders in former fights, were cut into eight portions and their remains scattered about the scene of the murder.

As a prelude to the operation of the gold standard in Japan from October next some £7,645,867 sterling worth of gold have been purchased by the authorities. This, together with the gold in stock at the Bank of Japan, is to form the material for minting the new gold coins. Since the issue of the new coinage law the Osaka Mint has been very busy, for they have to mint various kinds of gold coins to the amount of 43 million yen before the 1st of October. Besides this the Mint have to strike 10 million yen worth of subsidiary coins before the end of March next. It is said to be a grand sight to see lots of gold coins piled up in the workshops. Not a few foreigners are daily visiting the works to witness the unique spectacle.—*Asahi*.

## COMMERCIAL.

## SILK.

SHANGHAI, 10th September.—(From Messrs. A. B. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—London telegrams to 7th September quote a quite market, Gold Kilins 9/0, Blue Elephants 9/10. Raw Silk.—Business has been stopped almost entirely by the fluctuations in Exchange. At the close of last mail 4 w/s. Drey paper was quoted at 2/3½ and 2/51, on 7th current it touched 2/3½ and 3/07, to-day 2/4½ and 3/00; are the quotations. We hear of no settlements in Waste Silks of any kind, and only about 100 bales Yellows have found buyers. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 2nd to 8th September: 2,199 bales White, 288 piculs Yellow and 60 piculs Wild Silks. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is as follows: To Continent 1,373 bales, to America 1,619 bales, to London 6 bales and to Japan 4 bales. Waste Silk.—The following settlements have transpired:—200 piculs Frapands (King Yin) at 11s. 2½, 100 piculs Frapands Kading at 11s. 2½, and some Yellow Gun Waste at 11s. 51/52.

## CAMP-DE-B.

HONGKONG, 14th September.—The market is again weaker. Quotations for Formosa are nominally \$18.25 to \$18.50. Sales, 110 piculs.

## SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 14th September.—The firmness last reported continues and prices are again higher. Quotations are:—

Shanghai, No. 1, White... \$7.26 to 7.30 per picul.  
do. " 2, White... 6.77 to 6.80 "  
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.60 to 4.63 "  
do. " 2, Brown... 4.47 to 4.50 "  
Swatow, No. 1, White... 6.22 to 6.25 "  
do. " 2, White... 6.70 to 6.73 "  
Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 4.50 to 4.55 "  
do. " 2, Brown... 4.42 to 4.45 "  
Soochow Sugar Candy ..... 11.08 to 11.10 "  
Shekloong " ..... 9.67 to 9.70 "

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The P. M. steamer *City of Peking*, sailed on the 24th August. For San Francisco:—333 packages tea. For San Francisco:—422 packages tea from Foochow. For Montreal:—945 packages tea (67,679 lbs. from Foochow). For San Francisco:—23 cases silk goods. For La Libertad:—16 cases silk goods. For San José de Guatemala:—1 cases silk goods. For La Union:—4 cases silk goods. For Corinto:—5 cases silk goods. For Amapale:—12 cases silk goods. For Punta Arenas:—6 cases silk goods. For Pauam:—5 cases silk goods. For New York:—127 bales raw silk.

The German steamer *Irene*, sailed on the 31st August. From Hongkong for Odessa:—100 bales galangal. For Havre:—32 boxes blackwoodware, 17 boxes feathers, 17 cases preserves, 110 cases bristles, 300 rolls mats, 10 cases lithographic paper, 41 cases chinaware, 2 cases silks, 103 bales canes and rattan. For Havre option Hamburg:—1,020 rolls mats. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—20 cases essential oil, 20 cases aniseed oil, 857 cases camphor, 200 bales feathers, 40 bales bristles, 25 cases ginger, 5 cases cassia oil and 20 cases china oil. For Havre and/or Antwerp and/or London:—20 bales galangal. For Hamburg:—1016 packages tea, 513 cases cassia, 90 rolls matting, 104 cases and 19 cases preserves, 15 cases wood oil, 67 bales galangal, 435 bales canes, 41 cases bristles, 1 case silks, 404 bales and 6 cases feathers, 60 boxes essential oil, 300 boxes camphor, 25 cases vermillion, 9 cases gamboge, 35 packages firecrackers, 50 cases staraniseed, 500 cases broken cassia and 8 packages sundries. For Hamburg option Antwerp:—30 cases bristles. For Copenhagen:—5 packages effects. For Lisbon:—17 packages China & Japanware. For London:—40 cases aniseed oil.

The steamer *Leone*, sailed on the 5th September. For New York:—2,240 packages firecrackers, 713 cases cassia, 42 cases chinaware, 11 cases woodware, 20 boxes bristles, 33 rolls matting, 20 cases blackwoodware and 897 packages merchandise.

The P. & O. steamer *Rosetta*, sailed on the 9th September. For London:—30 bales canes, 825 rolls mats, 17 boxes silks, 2 cases feathers 1 case curios, 1,371 boxes tea (23,791 lbs.), 60 cases lily bulbs. from Amoy. For Gibraltar:—3 cases curios. For France:—709 bales raw silk and silks. For Milan:—10 bales raw silk.

Per German steamer *Aglaia*, sailed on the 7th September.—From Hongkong for Odessa:—200 cases cassia and 100 bales galangal. For Havre:—15 cases paper, 20 cases chinaware, 20 cases bristles, 6 cases feathers, 13 bales canes, 67 bales rattans, 15½ boxes camphor, and 1 package samples. For Havre Option Hamburg:—9 boxes camphor. For Havre/Hamburg/London:—10 boxes bristles, 190 cases essential oil, 20 cases vermillion, and 100 cases camphor. For Hamburg:—43 cases camphor, 80 bales rattan shavings, 5 cases lith paper, 1,011 packages tea, 20 cases vermillion, 332 bales canes, 25 cases ginger, 40 bales feathers, 2 cases chinaware, 67 bales galangal, 50 cases staraniseed, 10 boxes China paper, 50 cases bristles, 10 rolls mats, 40 bales rattanware, 2 cases preserves, and 7 packages sundries. For Hamburg Option London:—10 cases bristles. For Lisbon:—1 case sundries. For New York:—10 cases staraniseed oil.

The American ship *Landseer*, sailed on the 4th Sept.:—From Shanghai for New York:—26 bales strawbraid, 10 bales rush strawhats, and 13 bales skins. From Hongkong:—12,396 rolls matting, 2,500 packages firecrackers, 1,400 packages cassia, 1,395 cases fans, 241 bales canes, 200 packages rattanware, 100 cases soy, 70 packages heather scrubs, 50 packages rattan-core, 33 packages strawcuffs, 25 cases paper, 12 packages private effects, and 794 packages merchandise.

## OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 14th September.—Bengal.—There has been a lull in the demand and business has consequently been of a limited character. Prices have gone down owing to the improvement in the exchange on India, latest quotations being \$732½ for New Patna and New Benares.

Malwa.—Transactions have been rather meagre, but prices have remained steady. The following are current figures:—

New (this yr's) \$870 with all'ance of 0 to 0 cts.  
" (last " ) \$900 " 0 to 2 "  
Old (2/5 " ) \$920 " 0 to ½ "  
" (6/10 " ) \$940 " 0 to 2 "

Persian.—Superior qualities have improved in value, other descriptions remaining unchanged. Quotations for Oily drug close at \$500 to \$620, and for Paper-wrapped at \$550 to \$700 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna. .... 1,430 chests.  
New Benares ..... 420 "  
Malwa ..... 220 "  
Persian ..... 630 "

## COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

| DATE.    | PATNA. |      | BENARES. |      | MALWA.  |         |
|----------|--------|------|----------|------|---------|---------|
|          | New.   | Old. | New.     | Old. | New.    | Old.    |
| 1897.    | \$     | \$   | \$       | \$   | \$      | \$      |
| Sept. 9  | 740    | —    | 740      | —    | 870/900 | 920/940 |
| Sept. 10 | 740    | —    | 740      | —    | 870/900 | 920/940 |
| Sept. 11 | 740    | —    | 740      | —    | 870/900 | 920/940 |
| Sept. 12 | 740    | —    | 740      | —    | 870/900 | 920/940 |
| Sept. 13 | 737½   | —    | 735      | —    | 870/900 | 920/940 |
| Sept. 14 | 732½   | —    | 732½     | —    | 870/900 | 920/940 |

## RICE.

HONGKONG, 14th September.—There has been a general fall in Prices. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary ..... \$2.66 to 2.70  
" Round, good quality ..... 2.77 to 2.80  
" Long ..... 2.90 to 2.95  
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ... 2.71 to 2.74  
" Garden, " No. 1 ... 2.97 to 3.00  
" White ..... 3.95 to 3.98  
" Fine Cargo ..... 4.10 to 4.15

## COALS.

HONGKONG, 14th September.—Prices firm, but very little doing. Quotations are:—

Cardiff ..... \$16.50 to 18.00 ex ship.  
Australian... { 8.75 small.  
11.00 lump.  
Mille Lump... 10.00 to 11.00 ex ship, nominal  
Mille Small... 9.00 to 10.00 none offering  
Moji Lump ... 7.75 to 9.50 ex ship, sales

## MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 14th September.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—*Bombay Yarn*.—675 bales No. 10 at \$92.50 to \$100, 150 bales No. 12 at \$96 to \$99.50, 55 bales No. 16 at \$100.50 to \$101, 685 bales No. 20 at \$106.50 to \$112. *White Shirtings*.—2,000 pieces No. 300 at \$3.75, 200 pieces No. 240 at \$5.90. *Grey Shirtings*.—600 pieces 8½ lbs. Sword and Belt at \$3.05, 1,200 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Peach at \$2.15, 600 8½ lbs. Red Peach at \$2.80, 1,200 pieces 8½ lbs. Green Peach at \$2.65, 250 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Triangle at \$1.05. *Turkey Reds*.—250 pieces 5 lbs. Flute-man at \$3.40. *Drills*.—150 pieces 15 lbs. American at \$1.40, 75 pieces 14 lbs. No. 250 at \$3.75.

METALS.—Tin.—300 slabs Foongchai at \$38, 200 slabs Siam at \$28 to \$36.70. *Quicksilver*.—150 flasks at \$126 to \$126.50.

SHANGHAI, 9th September.—(From Messrs. Noel Murray & Co's. Piece Goods Trade Report).—Any desire there might have been on the part of native dealers to operate was quiet knocked on the head by the fitful rise in Exchange that took place shortly after the issue of our last circular,



and which was looked upon as the commencement of the long expected re-action. The slight "boom" however was very short-lived, but while it lasted it served to tempt a considerable amount of gambling in Exchange amongst the Natives, with the result of only placing additional losses to their accounts. It also brought forward some indentors for Fancy Goods for delivery next Spring, but the collapse very soon put an end to all offers, and we imagine the whole transactions amounted to only a few hundred cases. As far as one can gather the visible supply of Fancy Goods is below requirements, and while indentors are willing to buy, the question of price is so far apart it is only a matter of time to see whether rates will advance here or give way on the other side. One thing is certain that if purchases have to be made they must be made soon, otherwise the shipment required to bring the goods out here cannot be obtained. With Grey Goods it is different, as they can be brought forward in much shorter time. As regards the current trade it is to all intents and purposes at a standstill, the amount of business reported being too small to constitute a market, while the quantities disposed of at auction are much the same as last week. With the near approach of the Autumn settling day clearances are fairly satisfactory under the circumstances, but difficulties are arising in this direction through dealers having sold to merchants in Sterling on the basis of Exchange ruling some months ago, and now that the goods are being delivered at present rates, the question has arisen who has to pay the differences. The position is sure to cause trouble, but one foreign firm has strongly declined to deliver any goods until full payment is made, and their action deserves commendation. There is no news from the Outports, all of which are very quiet. At the Auction this morning the tendency was downwards.

**Metals.**—(From Messrs. Alex. Biefield & Co.'s Report) 10th September:—Again we have to report a blank week, with nothing doing beyond spot business, the native holders with stocks, the exchange on which had been settled before the fall, being the only persons to reap any benefit out of the chaos. The variations of exchange absolutely prevent any contracts being entered into and we think that it will be some time before buyers will recover sufficient courage after the present disaster to enter into forward dealings. Some of the Chinese prognosticate a better feeling after the settlement on the 15th of the moon, but we are inclined to think that, in Sundries at least, no great improvement can be looked for during the present year. Metals have gone up in price a trifle in sympathy with the home rates, but the prices quoted are merely nominal, the only business settled, so far as we can learn, during the period having been 50 tons Scrap Iron at 74s. from stock. Home quotations are still showing an upward tendency, and the latest mail advices seem to point to the continuance of this for some time to come: the increased activity in the American markets, and the promises of prosperity there, all go to bring about this state, which is of such great benefit to the Home producers.

## CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

TUESDAY, 14th September.  
EXCHANGE.

|                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>ON LONDON.</b>                  |             |
| Telegraphic Transfer               | 1/10 1/2    |
| Bank Bills, on demand              | 1/10 1/2    |
| Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight      | 1/10 1/2    |
| Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight     | 1/10 1/2    |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight        | 1/10 1/2    |
| Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight | 1/10 1/2    |
| <b>ON PARIS.</b>                   |             |
| Bank Bills, on demand              | 2.34        |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight        | 2.39        |
| <b>ON GERMANY.</b>                 |             |
| On demand                          | 1.90        |
| <b>ON NEW YORK.</b>                |             |
| Bank Bills, on demand              | 45 1/2      |
| Credits, 60 days' sight            | 46 1/2      |
| <b>ON BOMBAY.</b>                  |             |
| Telegraphic Transfer               | 140         |
| Bank, on demand                    | 140 1/2     |
| <b>ON CALCUTTA.</b>                |             |
| Telegraphic Transfer               | 140         |
| Bank, on demand                    | 140 1/2     |
| <b>ON SHANGHAI.</b>                |             |
| Bank, at sight                     | 76          |
| Private, 30 days' sight            | 76 1/2      |
| <b>ON YOKOHAMA.</b>                |             |
| On demand                          | 7 1/2 % pm. |
| <b>ON MANILA.</b>                  |             |
| On demand                          | 5 % pm.     |

## ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand..... 1 1/2 % pm.  
**SOVEREIGNS** Bank's Buying Rate ..... 10.53  
**GOLD LEAF**, 100 fine, per tael ..... 55.00

## JOINT STOCK SHARES.

**HONGKONG**, 14th September.—The market has been pretty active during the week under review, a fair amount of cash business having been put through, generally at higher rates, but in some few at slightly lower than reported last week.

**BANKS.**—Hongkong and Shanghai in the early part of the week continued in a small demand without bringing out sellers, and 169 failing to obtain shares the rate gradually crept up to 172, at which rate sales were effected, but no sales took place at intermediate rates. The latest London quotation is £40. The market closes steady to strong at 172 per cent. prem.

**MARINE INSURANCES.**—China Traders have found buyers at \$79 and close steady. Unions have further improved their position to \$250, after small sales at \$245, market closing quieter at that rate. In Cantons there is no business to report. Straits have changed hands at \$17, sellers ruling the market at time of closing at \$17 1/2. Yangtzes have been negotiated locally at \$158 and \$157 1/2. North Chinas without business.

**FIRE INSURANCES.**—Hongkongs continue quiet and unchanged without business. Chinas have been taken off the market at \$105, more shares being wanted at that rate.

**SHIPPING.**—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have ruled somewhat steadier with fair sales at \$32. Indos have been done at \$47, \$47 1/2, and \$48, closing steady at last rate. China Manilas quiet and neglected at \$76. Douglases continue on offer at \$66 with only small sales.

**REFINERIES.**—Chinas in the early part of the week, being unobtainable at \$130, gradually rose to \$142, after small sales at \$140 and \$141, market closing somewhat easier at \$142 for delivery 30th inst. A demand for December share at better than cash rates has not been met.

**MINING.**—Punjoms have remained quiet with a small demand and sales at \$5 1/2. There is no business of any importance to report. Charbonnages are enquired for at \$83, but none seem to be obtainable. New Balmorals sold at \$1.60 and \$1.50 for Preferences and \$1.40 for Ordinaries in unimportant lots. Jebebus have changed hands at quotation. Olivers have been in request (B. shares) and a fair number have changed hands at \$7 1/2, \$7 1/4, and \$7 3/4, the news from the Mine being of an encouraging nature. Raubs.—In the early part of the week the July-August crushing came to hand (1,517 oz. from 2,350 tons), which comparatively poor result caused the market to fall temporarily to \$16 1/2 after small sales at \$17 1/2 and \$17. The rate, however, quickly rallied and so many buyers came into the market that holders would not part, \$17, \$17 1/2, and \$17 3/4 failing to bring out shares. At time of writing, buyers still rule the market at \$17 1/2 to \$18.

**DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.**—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks continue exceptionally quiet and neglected, sellers for the 30th inst. vainly offering to part at 218 per cent. prem. Kowloon Wharves are also more or less out of the market, small transactions only having taken place at \$62 1/2 and \$63. Wanchai Godowns could be placed at \$44 1/2, but are on offer at \$45.

**LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.**—Hongkong Lands have been dealt in to a fairly large extent at \$76 and close steady to strong at that rate. Kowloon Lands have found small buyers at \$19. Hotels continue more or less a dead letter at \$48 1/2 with no sales to report. West Points remain quiet with little or no business. Humphreys Estates have changed hands at varied and erratic rates, sales having been effected at \$9 1/2, \$9 1/4, \$9.40, \$9.60, and again at \$9 1/2, closing with sellers at the last rate.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**—Green Islands have changed hands at \$44 1/2 old cum new and at \$14 new issue, closing with sellers at quotations. Watsons have sold at \$12 1/2, Fenwicks at \$28 1/2, and Ices at \$113. Tramways and Ropes have found buyers at \$112 and \$113 respectively. Ewo Cottons have been negotiated at Tls. 114, other Cotton Mills remaining unchanged and without business.

## Closing quotations are as follow:—

| COMPANY.              | PAID UP.  | QUOTATION.  |
|-----------------------|-----------|---|
| Banks—                |           |   |
| Hongkong & Shanghai   | \$125     | 172 1/2, sal. & s. prem.—                                 |
| China & Japan, pref.  | £5        | nominal   |
| Do. ordinary          | £1 10s.   | nominal   |
| Do. deferred          | £1        | £5, buyers  |
| Natl. Bank of China   |           |   |
| B. Shares             | £8        | \$1 1/2, sal. & buyers                                    |
| Founders Shares       | £1        | \$20  |
| Bell's Asbestos E. A. | £1        | \$9, sellers  |
| Campbell, Moore & Co. | \$10      | \$4   |
| China Sugar           | \$100     | \$141, buyers   |
| Cotton Mills—         |           |   |
| Ewo                   | Tls. 100  | Tls. 114, sales & s.                                      |
| Hongkong              | \$20      | \$18  |
| International         | Tls. 100  | Tls. 123  |
| La u Kung Chow        | Tls. 100  | Tls. 116, sellers   |
| Soych e               | Tls. 500  | Tls. 575, sellers   |
| Yah'oon               | Tls. 40   | Tls. 42   |
| Dairy Farm Co.        | \$5       | \$4 1/2, buyers   |
| Fenwick & Co., Geo.   | \$25      | \$28 25, sales  |
| Green Island Cement   | \$10      | \$44 1/2, sal. & s. \$20 1/2 ex. n.t., sal. \$14 1/2 sal. |
| H. & China Bakery     | \$50      | \$33, buyers  |
| Hongkong & C. Gas     | £10       | \$110, buyers   |
| Hongkong Electric     | \$8       | \$1 1/2, sal. & sellers                                   |
| H. H. L. Tramways     | \$100     | \$112, sal. & sellers                                     |
| Hongkong Hotel        | \$50      | \$48 1/2, sellers   |
| Hongkong Ice          | \$25      | \$113, buyers   |
| H. & K. Wharf & G.    | \$50      | \$83, sellers   |
| Hongkong Rope         | \$50      | \$169, sales & buyers                                     |
| H. & W. Dock          | \$125     | 216 p. ct. prem.—   |
| Insurances—           |           |   |
| Canton                | \$50      | \$172 1/2, sellers  |
| China Fire            | \$20      | \$105, sal. & buyers                                      |
| China Traders         | \$25      | \$ 9, sales & buyers                                      |
| Hongkong Fire         | \$50      | \$357 1/2, sellers  |
| North-China           | £25       | Tls. 210, buyers  |
| Straits               | \$20      | \$17 1/2, sellers   |
| Union                 | \$25      | \$25 1/2, sal. & sellers                                  |
| Yangtze               | \$60      | \$158, sales & sellers                                    |
| Land and Building—    |           |   |
| H. Land Investment    | \$50      | \$76, sales & buyers                                      |
| Humphreys Estate      | \$10      | \$9 1/2, sales & sellers                                  |
| Kowloon Land & B.     | \$30      | \$ 9, sales   |
| West Point Building   | \$40      | \$21 1/2  |
| Luzon Sugar           | \$100     | \$41, sales   |
| Mining—               |           |   |
| Charbonnages          | Fcs. 500  | \$33, buyers  |
| Great E. & C. d'oulin | \$        | \$ 5, sellers   |
| Do. Do.               | \$2 1/2   | \$2 sales & sellers                                       |
| Jebebus               | \$5       | \$2.10, sales   |
| New Balmoral          | \$1       | \$1.40  |
| Do. Preference        | \$1       | \$1.50, sales   |
| Oliver's Mines, A.    | \$5       | \$20, sellers   |
| Do. B.                | \$2 1/2   | \$ 1/2, sellers   |
| Punjom                | \$4       | \$5 1/2, sales  |
| Do. Preference        | \$1       | \$1.40, buyers  |
| Raubs                 | 13s. 10d. | \$17 1/2, buyers  |
| New Amoy Dock         | \$10      | \$18 1/2, sellers   |
| Steamship Coys.—      |           |   |
| China and Manila      | \$50      | \$75, sales & buyers                                      |
| China Mutual Ord.     | £5        | £2 10s. buyers  |
| Do. Preference        | £10       | £7, buyers  |
| Douglas S. S. Co.     | \$50      | \$65, sellers   |
| H. Canton and M.      | \$15      | \$32, sales & sellers                                     |
| Indo-China S. N.      | £10       | \$48, sales & buyers                                      |
| Wanchai Warehouse Co. | \$37 1/2  | \$45, sellers   |
| Watson & Co., S. A.   | \$10      | \$12.50, sal. & sellers                                   |

J. V. Y. VERNON, Broker.

**SHANGHAI**, 10th September.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—A fair business has been done during the week. Money is easier in Hongkong, and there has been more business done there of late, at improving prices. Exchange has fallen to 76 1/2 for telegraphic transfers, with 7 1/2 for private paper drawn at 3 days' sight. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Cash shares changed hands early in the week at 183 and 183 1/2 per cent premium, but the fall of exchange on Hongkong checked business, and there are sellers at 183 at the close. Shares were placed for December delivery at 191 per cent. premium, and there are further sellers. Marine Insurance.—Business has been confined to Yangtzes at \$160 and Straits at \$18. Fire Insurance.—Chinas were placed to Hongkong at \$104, and Tls. 77 1/2 equal to \$110 1/2, with exchange 73. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas changed hands at Tls. 36 and China Mutual ordinary shares, with 2, paid up, were placed at Tls. 25. Sugars.—China Sugar Refining shares were placed at \$142, and they are now wanted at \$141. Luzons are offering at \$42. Mining.—Raub Australian Gold Mining shares are wanted at \$20. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. were sold at Tls. 181 1/2 and Tls. 192 1/2 cum, and Tls. 170 1/2 ex, the dividend of Tls. 12 paid yesterday. Shanghai Engineering & Dock shares were sold at Tls. 100 cash and Tls. 101 for the 31st December. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf



shares changed hands at Tls. 123. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares have been sold at Tls. 9½, and Hongkong Land Investment shares were sold to Hongkong at \$74½, and \$77½, which is equal to \$79 and 7½ exchange, and were purchased thence to lay down at \$80. Industrial.—Business was done in Cotton Mill shares; Ewoa at Tls. 114, Internationals at Tls. 123½ and Tls. 124 cash, Tls. 124 for September, and Tls. 130/129 for the 31st December, and Laou-Kung-Mow at Tls. 116/117 cash and Tls. 117½ for the 30th September. Shanghai Ice shares were placed at Tls. 130, China Flour Mill shares at Tls. 56, and American Cigarette shares at Tls. 85. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were placed at Tls. 245, Shanghai Cargo Boat shares at Tls. 193 or Tls. 201, and Co-operative Cargo Boat shares at Tls. 187½. Miscellaneous.—Business was done in Tobacco shares at very irregular prices: Sumatras at Tls. 92½ to Tls. 96 for cash, closing at Tls. 94, at Tls. 9½, Tls. 96 and Tls. 91 for the 30th September, and Tls. 103 for November, cum the interim dividend of 10 per cent payable on the 15th current; and Langkats at Tls. 37½ to Tls. 410 cash, Tls. 40 for September, Tls. 415 to Tls. 400 for October, and Tls. 40, Tls. 400, Tls. 425 and Tls. 42 for December, and Tls. 40 for March. The closing cash rate is Tls. 335. Hail and Holz shares were placed at \$10 and \$4½. Loans.—China Imperial Government Loan Bonds were sold at Tls. 275, Shanghai Municipal Debentures of 1896 at Tls. 100, and Shanghai Land Investment Debentures of 1896 at Tls. 101, plus the accrued interest in all cases.

## TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 10th September (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—In reporting on the position of our homeward freight market during the last two weeks, we can hardly say that the period has been in any way a prosperous one, and we are not for the export of tea to both London and New York, steamers would have fared very badly, what with low freights to America and an almost entire absence of general cargo going forward. The number of vessels loading for London has also diminished, the result being that steamers have received somewhat better support than recent departures. Both certain have been kept well supplied with tonnage. For New York via Cape.—The *Helen Bauer* is steadily proceeding with her loading, but her date of departure from here is still uncertain. The *Danzon* has been taken up for this berth and expects to leave here at end of October or thereabouts. Rate 14s. For New York via Pacific Lines.—A drop of 1/3rd in the tea rate is the only change to note in this direction. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 3s.; waste silk 3s. 6d.; tea 3s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 3s.; waste silk 3s. 6d.; tea 3s.; New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 42s. 6d.; Baltimore via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 47s. 6d.; Kongsberg via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 42s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 47s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 42s. 6d.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 55s.; waste silk 57s. 6d.; tea 55s. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. Havre, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 3s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net. 42s. 6d. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York, by sail 14s.; New York via Pacific, 1½ gold cents per lb. tea, 3 cents per lb. silk, \$12 per ton strawbraid; New York via Suez, 17s. 6d. per ton general cargo, 17s. 6d. tea; Boston, 25s. per ton general cargo; Philadelphia, 25s. per ton general cargo. Coast rates:—Mojito to Shanghai \$1.10 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.10 per ton coal; Newchwang to Kobe little doing; Newchwang to southern ports, little doing; Wuhu to Canton, little doing.

## VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Rohilla (str.), Ningchow (str.), Shanghai (str.) Patroclus (str.), Japan (str.).  
For SAN FRANCISCO.—Belgie (str.), Peru (str.).  
For VANCOUVER.—Empress of Japan (str.).  
For NEW YORK.—Morven (str.), Benalder (str.), Gov. Robie, Pathan (str.).  
For AUSTRALIA.—Taiyuan (str.), Candia (str.).  
For TACOMA.—Olympia (str.).  
For PORTLAND.—Duguesclin, Braemar (str.).  
For BALTIMORE.—Isaac Reed.

## SHIPPING.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

## HONGKONG.

## September—ARRIVALS.

- 8, Peiyang, German str., from Chinkiang.
- 9, Belgic, British str., from San Francisco.
- 9, Tailee, German str., from Swatow.
- 9, Taicheong, German str., from Aros Bay.
- 9, Foochow, British str., from Iloilo.
- 9, Loksang, British str., from Chefoo.
- 9, Elsa, German str., from Haiphong.
- 10, Daphne, German str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
- 10, Asloun, British str., from Hongay.
- 10, Nestor, British str., from Foochow.
- 10, Macduff, British str., from Glasgow.
- 10, Tetartoz, German str., from Moji.
- 10, Sullberg, German str., from Newchwang.
- 10, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
- 10, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
- 10, Taichow, British str., from Bangkok.
- 10, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
- 10, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 10, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 11, Sydney, French str., from Marseilles.
- 11, Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.
- 11, Flintshire, British str., from London.
- 11, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
- 11, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
- 11, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
- 11, Chihli, British str., from Canton.
- 11, Falkenburg, German str., from Hongay.
- 11, Nanao, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 11, Guthrie, British str., from Sydney.
- 11, Loosok, British str., from Bangkok.
- 12, Frejr, Danish str., from Haiphong.
- 12, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
- 12, L. Schepp, Amr. ship, from New York.
- 12, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
- 12, Lolani, Hawaiian bark, from Hongkong.
- 13, Hohenzollern, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
- 13, Ama a British str., from Samarang.
- 13, Glenartney, British str., from London.
- 13, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
- 13, Hoihow, British str., from Chefoo.
- 13, Oolong, British str., from Liverpool.
- 13, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
- 13, Saphalien, French str., from Shanghai.
- 14, Loksang, British str., from Canton.
- 14, Glenfalloch, British str., from Sr its.
- 14, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 14, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
- 14, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
- 14, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
- 14, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.

## September—DEPARTURES.

- 9, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
- 9, Crown of Arragon, Brit. str., for London.
- 9, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
- 9, Kinshu Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
- 9, Machow, British str., for Bangkok.
- 9, Nanyang, British str., for Swatow.
- 9, Peiyang, German str., for Canton.
- 9, Rosetta, British str., for Europe.
- 9, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
- 9, Taicheong, German str., for Swatow.
- 10, Loksang, British str., for Canton.
- 10, Devawongse, British str., for Bangkok.
- 11, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
- 11, Sullberg, German str., for Canton.
- 11, Macduff, British str., for Shanghai.
- 11, China, British str., for S. Francisco.
- 11, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Kwei-yang, British str., for Tientsin.
- 11, Laurel Branch, Brit. str., for Moji.
- 11, Nestor, British str., for London.
- 11, Onsang, British str., for Java.
- 11, Sydney, French str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Tailee, German str., for Amoy.
- 12, Foochow, British str., for Hongay.
- 12, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
- 12, Frogner, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
- 12, Independent, German str., for Iloilo.
- 12, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
- 12, Victoria, Swedish str., for Haiphong.
- 13, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
- 13, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
- 13, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
- 14, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
- 14, Chihli, British str., for Hongay.
- 14, Daphne, German str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Guthrie, British str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Hoihow, British str., for Canton.
- 14, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
- 14, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., for Europe.
- 14, Taisang, British str., for Canton.

## PASSENGER LIST.

## ARRIVED.

Per *Belgie*, from San Francisco, &c.—U. S. Consul and Mrs. R. Wildman, Master Wildman and nurse, Messrs. G. C. Holberton, Chan Pao Tung, Wang Ta Chun, and T. Nagano, Capt. G. C. Anderson, Misses J. J. Anderson, H. Stone, Mary Burrows, Sarah Burrows, Julia Burrows, B. Brown, E. Jackson, Powers, and Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Danenberg.  
Per *Yuensang*, from Manila—Mr. A. Rogers.  
Per *Suisang*, from Calcutta, &c.—Mrs. Kulgar and child, Mr. T. Thurnheer.  
Per *Formosa*, from Swatow—Mr. Cremer.  
Per *Sydney*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Misses B. Harley and A. Cousin, Revs. Pie, Thomas, Misambeau, Segieret and Lechanot; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Macgregor, Mr. and Mrs. Ribeiro, Messrs. H. A. Marshall, Toledano, Sabatier, Charronset, Cimbra Gomes, Da Conceição Costa, G. Stoop, and F. Stoop; from Saigon, Mr. Ardizzone. For Shanghai from Marseilles, Messrs. Blachère and Chapelain; from Aden, Messrs. Joseph and Etienne; from Colombo, Mr. Katsu. For Kobe from Singapore, Mrs. Merisaki Onta and Mrs. Okito. For Yokohama from Marseilles, Messrs. Colouin and Beurre Herve; from Port Said, Mr. Elmann; from Colombo, Consul and Mrs. Pereira and children; from Batavia, Mr. Mikkers; from Saigon, Mr. Legras.  
Per *Guthrie*, from Australia—Mr. and Miss Reckits, Miss Marshall, Miss Swan, and Miss Davies.  
Per *Prinz Heinrich*, from Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. Dumbarr, Mrs. Spencer, Mrs. Frazer, Messrs. G. Hutcheson, McCallum, Nazar and family, A. D. Barr, C. Thiel, K. Hansen, Souheir, A. Heath, and T. C. Holger.  
Per *Hohenzollern*, from Yokohama—Capt. Stopani, Dr. and Mrs. G. H. Bateson Wright, Rev. L. T. Ryde, Messrs. S. Slausky, W. T. Andrews, Blutner, Beise, Ottenstein, Medenus, C. Mombri, R. Bewley and T. Sagermaux.  
Per *Glenartney*, from London, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Johnstone and infant.  
Per *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver—His Excellency Sir Chang Yin Huan, K.C.M.G., Dr. Tsao, Messrs. Sui Liang, Chun Chow Sheng, Chun Oi Ting, Loh Fung Wah, Tsu, Ma Ting Lian, Pang, Lee Ka Shing, Liu Yuk Lin, and Ling Hsun, Mr. and Mrs. R. Cooke, and Rev. Jeremiasen. From Yokohama—Mrs. Harry Wicking, Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Benjamin, Miss Gray, Capt. Crawford, Messrs. M. H. Michail, A. Brooke-Smith, D. O. Gubbay, and N. J. Ede. From Kobe—Messrs. Hilton Harley and N. Nabekra. From Nagasaki—Mr. T. F. Chang. From Shanghai—Mr. S. Bourke.

## DEPARTED.

Per *Rosetta*, from Hongkong for Singapore—Miss Penradducke, Messrs. Derrick and Macartney. For Colombo—Miss Wade, Lieut. Col. J. A. F. Nutt. For Bombay—Mrs. B. A. d'Aquino, Mr. M. A. de Sa Sequeira. For Brindisi—Mr. Luiz F. Gravatta. For Gibraltar—Mr. A. M. de Fornellos. For London—Misses M. Hook and A. Tolley. For London via Marseilles—Messrs. G. Heron and Hazeland. From Shanghai for London—Messrs. G. Carnaghan, R. Sanderson, and Northcombe. For London via Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. A. Gould, Miss Baschmidt. From Yokohama for Singapore—Mr. T. Koyama. From Kobe for Bombay—Mr. P. Lalaca.  
Per *Zafiro*, for Manila—Mr. J. Sloan, Mrs. Meek and child.  
Per *Devawongse*, for Bangkok—Messrs. G. W. and O. C. Holberton.  
Per *Victoria*, for Haiphong—Revs. Cappanair and Souyris.  
Per *China*, for Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. F. X. Gutierrez, Mr. J. E. Perpetuo. For Kobe—Mrs. Omatsu Otawa, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Messrs. J. Hastings, W. Taylor, Waldron, F. S. Resille, and Master Mitchell. For Yokohama—Mr. Wm. Boffey, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Kerr, Messrs. F. Ito and S. Kasa. For San Francisco—Mr. Cant Yen, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hunt, Miss E. Stone, Miss Sadley Hunt, Mr. J. Allen Hunt, Mrs. J. Ray, Misses A. S. Kugler and Hape Conrad. For New York—Mr. Montgomery.

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